START

ON

LONDON

REEL K 8 A

1

1, Sept. 1940 to 31, Sept. 1940

Unit from K-7-17.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Chatham

Cancel my 1727/14. Temporary partial dislocation of work in R.N. Torpedo Depot. Four slightly wounded. (C. in C., Nore, 1143/15 to Adty.)

Dover

At 1145/15 aircraft dropped about 10 Bombs near Dover Castle, 3 in Longdon Battery, 3 in town and 2 in Harbour. No casualties reported. At 1440/15, six bombs dropped near Prince of Wales Pier. (H.M. Trawler BOTANIC seriously damaged, 5 killed 7 wounded. Slight damage to KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL and 3 wounded. (V.A.Dover 1646/15 to Adty.)

Portland

Attacked by 25 Bombers at 1531. Large number of Bombs, many fell in sea, and several Time Bombs still unexploded. Minor damage to buildings and some military casualties. (F.O.I.C., Portland 1740/15 to Adty.) Details of damage (O.C.W. Portland 1630/16 to Civil E. in C.)

REGENT LION

British. Attacked by A/C at 0625/15. 2 dead, 1 wounded. (D.E.M.S. Belfast 2246/15 to D.T.D)

Enemy Bomber shot down

Master of PORT AUKLAND reports having shot down a German Bomber at 1445/15 while in Barking Reach. (C. in C., Nore, 2255/15 to Adty.)

Mining

Liverpool

Mines or Bombs dropped in Crosby Channel between The Rock and No 8 Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0327/15 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary

Trawlers LIBRA and CONQUISTADOR destroyed one A/C, probably Minelayer near Barrow Deep Light Vessel at 0255/15. (C. in C., Nore, 1007/15 to Adty.)

2 M/S Trawlers sweeping Q.Z.F. 17 from North Goodwin Light Vessel to S. Goodwin L.V. close outside Goodwin Sands, return Dover about 1000/16. Request Fighter protection. (V.A. Dover 2032/15 and 2302/15 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Boulogne to Flushing — Aircraft reconnaissance of Ports during Night 14/15. (Air Ministry 0640/15 to H.Q.C.C.)

Calais to Hook — Night 14/15 (H.Q.B.C. 0230/16)

Cherbourg — At 1030/15. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 2100/16)

German Troops to Norway — Your 1948/14.
(1) There has been a continuous flow of soldiers and sometimes sailors from Germany to Norway during past week both by Sassnitz/Trelleborg and by Helsingor Helsingborg routes but their ultimate destination cannot be determined. A. One.
(2) Complement of two trains reported was about 1200 men. There appears to be no material carried by train and evidence of equipment is lacking.B. 2.
(3) Though evidence of convoys cannot normally be obtained one large transport northward bound on twelfth with two destroyers and one U-Boat was reported off Smogon. C. 3.
(N.A. Stockholm 1130/15 to D.N.I.)

If movement of Ocean going Steamers continues to Westwards and then South to French Atlantic Ports, there may be a link between the movement and the intelligence of German activities in South America i.e. the beginning of an attempt to evade our blockade and commence trading under French or no flag. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1225/15 to Adty.)

Havre — Photographic R/C on 15/9. (H.Q.C.C. 1810/15)

Flushing to Treport — P.R.U. Sortie at 1140/15 (P.I.U. 1918/15 to N.I.D.)

/Amelend.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Ameland — 60 M/V's and 12 Destroyers at 53° 30' N., 5° 40' E., steering West at 8 knots. (A/C of 206 Sqdn. 2115 and 2145/15 to Chatham)
Counted 10 M/V's of 1200 tons, 2 E-Boats, 4 possible E-Boats, 2 possible destroyers, and 45 Trawlers and Barges. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0325/16 to H.Q.C.C.)

Antwerp, Zeebrugge, Dunkirk — P.R.U. Sortie at 1700/15 (P.I.U. 0005/16)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

EMPEROR — On arrival at Clyde, PIROUETTE with E.N. 5. reported that EMPEROR has sunk off Pentlands in collision with Trawler escort SAON. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0926/15 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
S.C. 3.	DRANCEY to try to join (C. in C., W.A 0013/15)
W.N. 15.	Off Rattray Head (ULLSWATER 0500/16) Expected arrival Kinnaird Head, 0500/16 (ULLSWATER, 2100/15)
H.X. 75.	Position and arrival date. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1100/15)
O.G. 43.	My 1545/10. Tranports to join. (D.O.D. (H) 1936/15)
M.T.	Leaves Methil 1700 tomorrow, close escort LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN, who are subsequently to escort F.S. 83. (C. in C., Rosyth 1129/15)
M.T. 70	Sailed 1000/15 (N.C.S.O. Methil) (1041/15)
O.B. 216.	Route and times (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1206/15)
O.B. 214.	Sailed (N.C.S.O. 1235/15)
S.L. 45 A	Arrived 0740 (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0746/15)
C.E. 11.	To sail from St. Helens 17/9. (C. in C., Nore, 1042/15)
F.N. 81.	Sailed 0800/15, 30 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1009/15)
H.G. & O.G. Amended Routes	Amended routes in Admiralty 1648/7/9 will entail O.G. Convoys taking 13 days and H.G. Convoys 15 days on passage. Essential that escorts spend not less than four days at Gibraltar and 8 days at Liverpool between convoys. To meet this situation, necessary to amend sailings of Gibraltar convoys. Alterations proposed. (C. in C., W.A. 1800/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

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War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

15.9.40.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace" and French Ships at Dakar.

Dakar arrivals.

Confirm or disprove soon as possible Vichy report ships have arrived Dakar. (S.O. Force M. to ARK ROYAL, 0041N/15)

Your 0041. These ships were not at Dakar at 0630. Further reconnaissance later. (ARK ROYAL, 0812 N/15). (Cancelled see 1027/15).

Situation.

Admty. 0016/14. My 2300/14 and ARK ROYAL 0812 N/15. Fuel situation and low speed of battleships necessitate immediate decision whether to (a) Withdraw Force M to refuel and prepare for "menace", leaving CUMBERLAND to patrol and report, or (b) Reform patrol about 0001/17 with CUMBERLAND, ARK ROYAL and battleships and accept indefinite delay of menace. Propose (a). (S.O. Force M. to Admty. 1001N./15).

Air Reconnaissance. Cancel my 0812/15.

Much better photographs taken this Sunday morning show 3 cruisers all with characteristic square stern of GALISSONIERE Class in positions in which French cruiser PRIMAUGUET and 2 destroyers were reported in my 2027/14. Light Cruisers FASTASQUE Class cannot be identified but a number of small craft are alongside moles. Further reconnaissance p.m. today. Every care is being taken that reconnaissance is not seen, hence difficulty of identification.

(ARK ROYAL 1027/15).

CUMBERLAND left on patrol.

ARK ROYAL's 1027/15 and my 1001/15. Am acting in accordance with (a) leaving CUMBERLAND to patrol to Southward of Dakar. (S.O. Force M, 1219 N/15).

RESOLUTION.

Return with your force to Freetown and refuel destroyers. (S.O. Force M. to RESOLUTION, 1248 N/15). Request Sierra Leone light from 2100 N. Expect arrival 2200 N. (RESOLUTION 1437/15).

Dakar Patrol. Priority.

Your 1001 N/15. As it is essential French force should not reach Dakar, patrol must be maintained at maximum strength until force is located. Delay to "menace" though regrettable must be accepted.

(D.O.D.(F) to F.O. Force M.1450/15)

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

15.9.40.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace" and French ships at Dakar.

Cruisers at Dakar. Photographs satisfy me, 3 GALISSONNIERE Class now in Dakar and fourth cruiser in Bay. Former had all awnings spread at 1530/14, 0630/15 and 1600/15. (F.O. M. to Admty. 1704/15). A sufficiently close reconnaissance must be carried out to make certain that French cruisers are at Dakar even if this leads to reconnaissance aircraft being sighted. (1st S.L. to F.O. M. 1914/15).

French Africa. Situation report No.15. (D.N.I.2122/15).

Force M. Departures 0515/15 FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, 0550, RESOLUTION, BARHAM to rejoin Force M. GREYHOUND to follow. (S.C.I. Freetown, 0846/15).

North Atlantic.

Casablanca. At what time and date was destroyer watch on Casablanca in position and by how many destroyers? (1st S.L. to V.A. H. 0129/15).

Your 0129. RENOWN, screened by 3 destroyers, was South of Casablanca by 0400/12 and joined by 3 more destroyers at 1400/12. Ships started to spread for patrol (my 1109/12) at 1600/12 and were fully spread by 2030/13, patrol consisting of 4 units 30 miles apart. (S.O. Force H. to Admty.0225/15).

R.D.F. ARK ROYAL. Admty. 1610/13. Fitting of R.D.F. in ARK ROYAL while in U.K. would be of great advantage. If time insufficient work might be completed at Gibraltar. Can FURIOUS join Force H. during absence of ARK ROYAL? (S.O. H. to Admty. 1059/15).

Aircraft.

ARK ROYAL. Informed Admty. intend to re-equip ARK ROYAL with 2 squadrons. of Fulmars. Any objection to retaining one squadron of Skuas in lieu of Fulmars to enable long range dive-bombing attacks

to/

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Aircraft ARK ROYAL (contd). — to be made on selected objectives by daylight? (S.O., H., to ARK ROYAL,1558/15)

French Squadron. — Report from Consul-General Tangier. Following message is published Depeche Marocaine this morning. French Squadron comprising MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE with light cruisers LA FANTASQUE, L'AUDACIEXU, LE MALIN, having left Toulon are proceeding Dakar 1130/15(ends) (F.O.C.N.A. 1706/15).

Aircraft lost, Casablanca. — My 2302/14. Admiral, Casablanca, has informed me through Tangier that missing aircraft has been lost, 2 officers disappeared but 2 airmen saved andtaken to Casablanca.(F.O.C.N.A.0930/15)

Destroyer Refits. — Your 2223/14. No. Work already severely restricted to items considered essential for the maintenance of efficiency. Request decision be communicated by A.M. 19. because it will affect orders to VELOX sailing with Convoy on that date. (F.O.C.N.A. 1920/15).

French Forces Situation. — Should it be desired to prevent further French Naval Forces from reaching Casablanca or other West African ports situation as follows:-
Available air reconnaissance cannot guarantee giving sufficient warning to ensure interception before French move. Surface reconnaissance for this purpose would seriously reduce destroyers available to screen RSNOWN and take concerted offensive action against French.
If Spanish territorial waters respected by us and if passage is made at night or in low visibility offensive action could not be taken until force is West of Gibraltar.
Should French be permitted to enter Casablanca, subsequent interception depends on whether a close patrol can be maintained off exit.
Hitherto in order to avoid incidents we have kept outside 20-mile limit in accordance with Admty 1924/4/7. VELOX and aircraft have been fired on off Casablanca.
If French decide to attack H.M. ships within 20 miles of Casablanca, French

Submarines/

MOST SECRET.

15.9.40.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

French Forces Situation. (contd)

Submarines and powerful light forces based there would make it difficult if not impossible to maintain an effective patrol with forces available. In these circumstances, request guidance as to what policy should be adopted. (S.O., Force H, 1645/15).

South Atlantic.

Dakar. C.S.1

VICHY broadcast on evening of 14/9 announced that three French cruisers and three destroyers had reached Dakar. Establish without doubt by air reconnaissance whether this is correct. (1st S.L. 0121/15 to C.S.1. and C.-in-C. S.A.)

French Ships.

Your 1313/14, French ships intercepted South of Dakar. Approved as regards merchant ships. No action to be taken as regards warships pending further instructions. (V.C.N.S. to C.-in-C., S.A. 0218/15).

Cameroons Patrol.

Possible French Force is proceeding to Cameroons. CORNWALL to proceed towards Duala at 25 kts. DELHI and DRAGON to fuel and join CORNWALL about 100 miles Westward of Duala. (1st S.L. to C.-in-C., S.A. 1315/15).

Cancel my 1315. CORNWALL is to remain at Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1605/15).

Cancel my 1605/15. Carry out the movements ordered in my 1315/15. (1st S.L. to C.-in-C., S.A. 2026/15).

Orders to CORNWALL, DELHI and DRAGON. Any French Forces met to be told they cannot be allowed to proceed to any French West African port but may proceed to Casablanca, fuelling if necessary at a British port. Force only to be used if necessary. Ships to be shadowed on passage North. (C.-in-C., S.A. 1313 N/15, 2117/15).

War Diary.

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Troop Transports. Freetown arrivals 14/9. Polish SOBIESKI, KENYA, ETTRICK, KARANJA, BELGRAVIAN, Dutch ship WESTERNLAND and QUEENLAND. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1115/15).

Arrival 1400/15, French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and French armed trawler PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE with Convoy N.S. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1535/15).

Raider, CARNARVON CASTLE. Raider reported in position 019° 28' S. 008° 54' W. at 1300/14. Leave present patrol and proceed to position 010° N, thence to position 090°S. 010°W. From this position return to Freetown (date). Object is to give cover to shipping on Cape Sierra Leone trade route.

(C.-in-C., S.A., 1611/15).

GREYHOUND Repairs completed 0800/16. (C.-in-C., S.A. to Admty, 1725/15).

A.P.3. Requesting fuel and water requirements at Freetown (C.-in-C., S.A. 1905/15).

Suspicious Ship. THALIA Your 0800Z/14. No. Ship described in my 1025/12 had no Sampson post, etc. (S.O.I. Captown, to S.O.I., Colombo, 1255/15).
My 1638/14. St. Helena reports signal from THALIA was received on Merchant Navy code recoded. From records available ship is Panamanian and should not hold code. Is any further information about ship available? (C.-in-C., S.A.1958/15 to Admty).

French Shipping. French Merchant ships unless definitely established as under free French control or proceeding in interests of free French between free French ports are to be sent in for examination, the action taken being reported. Free French territory to be regarded as Cameroons, Equatorial Africa, Middle Congo, excluding Gabou (Libreville). (C.-in-C., S.A., 1325/15).

VICHY Force. Since my 1313/14, and before receipt of your 0218/15, I discussed this matter

at/

War Diary.

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic

Vichy force (contd)

at a personal meeting with General de Gaulle through Spears. De Gaulle's view is that Vichy Naval Force should if possible be prevented from going to any French West African port and concurred that action should be taken on lines of instructions given to S.O. Force M. in Admty 0115/14 on which proposal is based. Present instructions are to shadow and report as in my 1317/14 to DELHI. Several reports from different sources that Vichy Force may be shortly expected in West Africa. (C.-in-C., S.A., 1631/15 to Admty).

French A/c.

Govnr. Bathurst reports french flying boat passed slowly down river past Bathurst to Estuary about 1630 G.M.T./14. (C.-in-C., S.A., 2037/15).

French Supplies.

Intercepted message from Boisson, Dakar, to Governor, Niamey, states may be possible shortly to obtain supplies from France and requests requirements (a) food, (b) manufactured articles, (c) liquid, fuel, fats, etc. (C.-in-C., S.A. to Admty. 2201/15).

French Policy.

Unconfirmed report that Vichy French Naval action to retake Cameroons and (? French) Equatorial Africa is imminent. Report that 2,500 troops been demobilized (? Casamanteh) and Bignona garrison is normal strength 1,000. French troops withdrawn from frontier with Gambia. In Senegal frontier with Gambia is being piquetted to prevent personnel leaving French territory for possible recruitment. (G.O.C., W. Africa, 2230/14, recd.1115/15).

Reported German Ship.

Master of British BRITISH DOMINION reports sighting strange ship of German TRAUTEN FELS Class at 1600/5 in 028° 04' S. 046° 14' E. on easterly course, speed unknown. Master states he was in sun and not seen. He altered course and steamed away for two hours. Stated definitely ship was German. Similarity between TRAUTEN FELS and SOPHIE RICKMERS very pronounced, T-B 164 and 165/40. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1036/15).

B.

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations. Operation intended by V.A.L.F. with ILLUSTRIOUS and VALIANT. Operation described in my 1209/12, para 2, curtailed in consequence. Bombardment by RAMILLIES when sufficient destroyers can be got together. (C.-in-C., Med.1537/15). (See Mediterranean Volume).

Malta Defences. Reinforcement of Malta A/A defences. C.-in-C., asked if urgency justifies passing ship through Mediterranean. (Head of M. toC.-in-C., Med. 2345/15).

Malta Air Raids S/m Contact. Air raid from 2015 to 2115/14. Fighters and searchlights forced A/c to drop bombs into sea. No damage. During raid enemy submarine A/S contact obtained and attacked by JADE who claimed success. Air raid 0750 to 0830/15 by 27 Ju.87 bombers, 6 Me.109. and 10 C.R.42. Large number of bombs on Halfar. One shot down by A/A guns. 9 our planes slightly damaged but quickly repairable. 8 soldiers slightly wounded. 17 time bombs still unexploded round Halfar. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1953/15).

Sudan. Admty. 1901/2, Chief of Staff's telegram re Sudan. Am in agreement with M.E. O/13463 of 5/9. (C.-in-C., Med. 1315/12, recd. 0659/15).

Free French Forces. Cable from Admiral Muselier via Governor Nigeria, re status of French Air Force temporarily at disposal of R.A.F. (C.-in-C., Med.0920/14 recd. from W.O. at 1305/16).

Destroyer Command. State. C.-in-C., Med. 2009/15 (See mediterranean Volume).

East Indies

Convoys. W.S.2.B. U.S.4. Convoy W.S.2.B. arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0506Z/15). KANIMBLA arrived escorting W.S.2.B, COLOMBO arrived escorting U.S.4. (S.O.I. Bombay, 0726Z/15). U.S.4. arrived (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0842Z/15).

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Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

(i) Enemy raiders on East Indies station have so far avoided terminal focal and have attacked in area where ocean routes cross or converge or on fringe of a main route in mid ocean. The known losses have occurred on Cape Achin Head direct route which will always be difficult to protect owing to distances from our bases.

(ii) Since Italy entered the war there have seldom been any ships available to give direct protection in focal area much less on routes themselves. Diverse routing has been only form of protection which experience has shown is insufficient.

(iii) If all through traffic (other than Australian) were routed North of line joining Cape Amber and Achin Head the enemy's task would be more difficult and mine easier, provided ships are available to protect higher concentrations thereby formed. The to and from Far East would be about 450 miles, (additional steaming distance for ships).

(iv) If ocean convoys soon run in a more regular cycle than at present, it should shortly be possible to patrol fairly constantly some of the most important parts of this route. e.g. Mozambique Channel.

(v) I intend therefore at an early date to divert shipping to new route, ships being diversely routed where possible along it.

(vi) To give continuous reasonable protection to new route I estimate 8 ships necessary which is a small premium on quantity of goods and shipping involved. At least half of these should be capable of high speed. This will be reassuring pending more suitable reinforcements. Approval to keep ARAWA is requested.

(vii) Earnest consideration should also be given (a) to provision of flying boats, which, operating from such places as Diego Garcia and Seychelles, would be invaluable for fixing a reported raider. (b) to instal some gun defence at Port Victoria, Seychelles, so as to make it a more secure fuelling base.

(viii) I am seriously concerned at the losses which have already occurred on East Indies station and I feel they will continue and probably increase unless there are adequate means at my disposal to hunt raiders down.
(C.in C. E.I. 1958Z/15).

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CERES	To leave Mombasa a.m./17 for Durban to escort South African troop transports LLAN/GIBBY CASTLE and LLAN/STEPHAN CASTLE. from Durban to Mombasa. (C.-in-C., E.I. 0820/15).
INDUS bombed.	H.M.I.S. INDUS bombed 0736 G.M.T./15, 14.21. N., 42.35.E. 4 bombs, no damage. (C.-in-C., E.I. 1122/15).
French Somaliland.	Govnr. Aden Tel.459 dated 14/9 to S. of S. for Colonies summarises present situation in French Somaliland. (C.-in-C., E.I. 13442/15).
Carrier, Red Sea.	Admty 1136/10, am in agreement with C.-in-C E.I. 1444/13. Appears no action for a carrier that could not equally well be carried out by shore-based aircraft. A carrier in Red Sea is a responsibility and entails a destroyer escort, a commitment that Medtn. or East Indies can ill afford. Air Ministry's X.781 of 12/9. Do not feel that the placing of magnetic mines off Massowa justifies the use of a carrier having regard to result likely to be obtained. (C.-in-C., Med. 1215/15 to Admty).
Raiders.	Appreciation of situation on E.Indies station. Suggestions re routes, flying boats, etc. (C.-in-C., E.I. 19582/15). See Operations Vol.
Sudan.	Italian land forces available for operations against Sudan. British plans. (C.-in-C., Med. to W.O. 1650/5 recd. from W.O. at 1340/16).
W.S.2.A.	EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, EMPRESS OF CANADA, ANDES, constituted W.S.2 A. fast group arrived Suez 15/9. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1841/15).
DAUNTLESS.	DAUNTLESS is to proceed a.m./16 to patrol area bounded by 005o N. equator 090° E. 095° E. for enemy merchant ship raider last reported 700 miles east of Mauritius on 10/9. Fuel to be economised so as to allow patrol to be maintained as long as possible returning to Penang when necessary. C.-in-C., E.I. requested to inform H.M.S. DAUNTLESS of disposition of Force V. (C.-in-C., China, 1551Z/15).

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

POLYKTOR	Cancel my 1028/14. POLYKTOR now reported arrived Suez 13/9. (C.-in-C., E.I. 2046/14, recd.2055/15).

America and West Indies.

Troop Transport.	My 1453/12 (requesting provision for 8,650 troops to embark Halifax). Military again request an approx. date as their rail transportation problems must be arranged. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1217/15).

Australia.

Convoy U.S.5	Departure Sydney 0652Z/14, PERTH escorting U.S.5. (A.C.N.B.0644/15).

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Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ELSA ESSBERGER. My 1553/14. Acting Consul-General Kobe, reports has returned to her mooring. (C.-in-C., China, 1821Z/15).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TORCELLO Arrived from Batoum with about 5,000 tons petroleum. (Varna 0950/15).

MAYA Left Varna 12/9 for Batoum in ballast (D.S.376).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

H.M.S. DUNDEE
Sunk

S.C. 3 attacked by submarine in 56.50 N 15.04 W., DUNDEE's stern blown off and possibly 1 other ship torpedoed (see ALEXANDROS) (WANDERER 0020/15) If not in contact, close DUNDEE, torpedoed, still floats. (WANDERER to ST. LAURENT, 0138/15) Taken in tow by ST. LAURENT. Survivors in WANDERER, FIDO and VIGNES (WANDERER 0315/15, 0800/15, 0930/15) DUNDEE sunk in 56.45 N., 14.14 W., Am proceeding with ST. LAURENT to search for U-Boat reported in your 1141. Am ordering SALVONIA to return to base. (ARROW 1300/15)

KENORDOC
Sunk

British, 1780 tons. Submarine attack signal 57. 45 N., 15.00 W. (Port Patrick Radio, 1005/15) (AMAZON to assist (CALIFORNIA, 1128/15) KENORDOC, Quebec to Bristol, sunk by gunfire from U-Boat 0930, 57.42 N 15.02 W., U-Boat retired on surface to westward. Am searching till noon/16 with ST. LAURENT and AMAZON who picked up 13 survivors. (ARROW, 1959/15) Straggler from Convoy S.C. 3.) (D.S. 377)

NAILSEA RIVER

British, 5548 tons, in S.L.A. 45. torpedoed 4 miles E. of Montrose, still afloat at 0121. (C. in C., Rosyth 0216/15)

EMPIRE VOLUNTEER

Following received from WANDERER begins- on rejoining convoy Commodore informs me that EMPIRE VOLUNTEER of S.C. 3. was sunk 2½ hours after attack on Dundee. 27 survivors in GRANLI 7 in FIDO 1121/17. Ends. (C. in C., W.A. 1351/17)

ALEXANDROS
Sunk

Greek, 4343 tons. My 0020 Apparently 1 ship hit besides DUNDEE, which was Greek ALEXANDROS, cargo timber but will probably break up. 23 on board WANDERER, 7 other of crew believed killed. (WANDERER, 0315/15) Ship sunk 7 of crew missing. 26 survivors (D.S. 377)

/ASKA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

ASKA — British, 3323 tons. 3333., 54.02 N., 12.46 W., sighted submarine 0733. (Lands End Radio, no T.O.O/15) (Port Patrick Radio, No T.O.O./15) Ashore off Cara House on Cara Island, amidships still burning. Tug and trawlers returning to harbour. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1033/17)

HARPENDEN (Torpedoed 11/9) — Position at 1100 tow transferred to MARAUDER and escorting with HIBISCUS to Kilchattan Bay. 28 of HARPENDEN crew on board and 2 from MAAS. (JASON, 1101/15, 1102/15, C. in C., W.A., 1523/15) JASON to land survivors at Greenock (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1614/15)

HIRD (Torpedoed 11/9) — Message from Malin Head Radio 1458 G.M.T. to Notraship, London, reports HIRD sunk, crew saved, position 58° N., 12.20 W., (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1553/15)

Submarines Reported

0054 — S/M ahead of 42 on surface 0052 (Intercept, Valentia Radio, 0054/15)

0119 — Enemy S/M reported 10 miles S.E. Bray steering S. about midnight. SCIMITAR and SKATE to investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 0119/15)

0020 — Enemy S/M reported, 56.50 N., 15.04 W., at 0020. (C. in C., W.A., 0211/15)

1139 — GARLAND reports S/M 37.08 N., 10.42 W (F.O.C.N.A. 1139/15)

1105 — Enemy S/M, 57.45 N., 15.00 W., at 1105 (C. in C., W.A., 1141/15)

1820 — S/M on surface, course 240°, my position 60.33 N., 2.00 E., (A/C 269 Sqdn., 1820/15, C. in C., Rosyth 1930/15)

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian. 1 was in 41° 27' N., 21° 50' W., at 0819/14.
1 was in 43° 40' N., 9° 50' W., at 1333/14.
German 1 may possibly reach Lorient tonight.
1 reported in 54° 2' N., 12° 46' W., at 0734/15.
1 far out in Atlantic probably between 55° and 57° N and W of 20° W., Has not moved S.E. as estimated yesterday.
2 in N.W. Approached of which 1 was in 56° 50' N., 15° 04' W., at 0020/15 and the other may have been in 57° 45' N., 15° W., at 1005/15.
1 between Shetlands and Norway homeward bound.
1 possibly approaching Fair Island Channel bound East.
(D.D.I.C. 1312/15)

Submarines Attacked

1230

By GARLAND (Polish t.b.d.) 37.08 N., 10.42 W., After second attack no further contact. (F.O.C.N.A. 1139/15 GARLAND, 1230/15)

Mediterranean & Red Sea

ATLAS (Torpedoed 6/9)

For Lloyds, London. Grek ATLAS sunk in Red Sea by enemy action, crew landed xxxfm here. Signed Thomas.
(M.O.I.C.k Aden 0701 Z/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Enemy Convoy at Sea

At 0144/16 HAIAD and BONAVENTURE of the 15th C.S. proceeded with TARTAR, ASHANTI, and PUNJABI towards a position about 100 miles east of North Berwick, aircraft at 2114/15 having reported an enemy convoy of 11 ships about 150 miles further to the eastward, steering west at slow speed. Coastal Command later amended the latitude to 52° 20' N., (latitude of Orfordness) and reported that the force had been bombed and one large vessel hit. The 15th C.S. and destroyers returned to Rosyth at 0608/16. The patrol by JAVELIN, KELVIN and JAGUAR was extended as far as Scarborough.

HOLDERNESS Damaged

HOLDERNESS was slightly damaged today by an explosion, believed to be due to a mine, off the North Foreland. The ship is still serviceable.

Submarine Patrols in Channel

URSULA and SWORDFISH are to be lent to the 5th S/M Flotilla at Portsmouth, in order to establish a third patrol in the Channel.

Dover Shelled

Dover was shelled between 1100 and 1110 today and there were 6 military wounded.

Dark hour patrols from either the Nore or Portsmouth Commands, working on alternate days, are to cover the waters of the Dover area each night.

ICARUS, VESPER and GARTH from the Nore last night patrolled in the Dover area.

HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, VISCOUNT and BULLDOG from Portsmouth patrolled as far eastward as Lydd. No enemy were seen.

All ships in the Nore, Dover, Portsmouth and Western Approaches Commands except those in the Clyde, were at immediate notice for steam last night. Remaining ships were at one hour's notice.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

Attacks on enemy invasion bases continued last night. Naval objectives successfully attacked were Boulogne Harbour and docks, shipping and barges at Dunkirk and Ostend, where a large vessel, possibly a transport was hit and set on fire.

The gun emplacements near Cape Gris Nez, Calais Tidal Harbour, wharves at Dunkirk and Naval Base and Dockyards at Wilhelmshaven.

Cuxhaven, Wesermunde and barges near Wangerooge were bombed by single aircraft, results not being seen. Shipping and dock installations at Antwerp were very effectively bombed by 24 aircraft. Attacks were made on the Docks at Flushing and a ship in Dunkirk Road was hit by a 250 lb bomb. Ijmuiden and Havre were bombed.

Day operations included bombing of Calais, Dunkirk, Ostend, Zeebrugge and Hamstede Aerodromes. Few results were observed. Two convoys were attacked but were not damaged.

A Hudson sank a merchant vessel in Convoy North of Ameland at 0430/16. At 0345 a Hudson attacked 10 small ships in position 260° Borkum 24 miles and the damage inflicted was believed to be considerable

A Hampden on minelaying task claims to have hit with a 250 lb bomb and probably left in a sinking condition a 7000 ton merchant ship off Scharnhorn Island and a second Hudson obtained two hits with similar bombs on a 6000 ton tanker off the mouth ofthe elbe.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

After the heavy losses inflicted yesterday, enemy aircraft showed very little desire to press home their attacks in daylight today. Only one organised attack took place, by some 350 aircraft between 0800/0950; it was intercepted and turned back, though weather largely hindered successful fighter action.

Convoy F.N. 81 escorted by WESTMINSTER and VALOROUS was unsuccessfully attacked late this afternoon 12 miles N.E. of Whitby.

SS CITY OF MOBILE proceeding independently, was bombed and machine gunned early this morning and sank later off the Isle of Man. The crew were saved.

An enemy aircraft fired a torpedo at Convoy F.N. 79 in the Firth of Forth possibly at VIVIEN. The Torpedo appeared to explode ashore at 0031/16

SS ASKA carrying Free French adherents from West Africa was bombed and set on fire this morning off the Mull of Kintyre. JASON picked up some 500 survivors.

A fire involving 2 tanks was caused at Thameshaven Oil Wharf at 2104/16.

No damage was caused in an air raid on Ramsgate this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Five aircraft successfully laid mines in the Elbe Estuary last night. A 6000 ton Tanker and a 7000 ton merchant ship were hit and the latter believed badly damaged during these operations. (See British Air Operations)

Six Swordfish of the Coastal Command successfully laid mines in West Scheldt, Flushing.

HOLDERNESS See Home Commands.

An explosion, believed to be due to a new type of mine possibly actuated by ship's propellers occurred today 6 yards astern of a small all wooden vessel off Inchkieth Light.

LOCUST saw a parachute mine fall and explode in the Thames Estuary last night.

Liverpool was closed from 0128 to 1100 today

Operation "Menace"

This operation has been abandoned.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

French Cruisers

CORNWALL left Freetown at 0005/16 to proceed towards Duala; DELHI and DRAGON are to join her on 18/9.

There is reason to believe that the French cruisers at Dakar are not altogether ready or willing for action.

F.O.C.N.A. is trying to establish an organisation for the rapid transmission of intelligence from Casablanca; the French Fleet appears to be on the move, and F.O.C.N.A. assumes the majority of the westbound units will call at Casablanca.

ARK ROYAL and destroyers arrived at Freetown.

South Atlantic

The pro-Vichy French ship POITIERS scuttled and set herself on fire today when ~~surprised~~ intercepted by CUMBERLAND south of Dakar. Her log indicated that she was bound from Dakar to Tabu (Ivory Coast) but there were indications that her eventual destination was further South. CUMBERLAND sank her by gunfire and withdrew to the south-west in case of retaliation from Dakar.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Cable — The Gibraltar-Tangier cable was in operation again today.

Air raid on Derna — The 813$ Squadron F.A.A. today made a successful attack on shipping in Derna harbour.

Air raid on Benghazi — F.A.A.aircraft of ILLUSTRIOUS to-day attacked ships in Beghazi and set one merchant ship on fire and probably sank a destroyer and damaged several other ships.

Sweep in the Aegean — The sweep in the Aegean,including continued air search failed to find any surface vessels,merchant or otherwise. Convoy A N 3 escorted by CALCUTTA and two destroyers was bombed unsuccessfully several times.

China

DAUNTLESS left today to patrol in the Indian Ocean westward of Sumatra to intercept the enemy merchant ship raider reported 10/9, 700 miles East of Mauritius.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

1. In the event of a expedition being launched against U.K. the enemy may be expected to employ as a diversion a number of craft not required for his expeditionary force. It is possible that such craft would be in positions to invite attack and so accupy our forces. All small craft to be warned against this simple strategem.
2. Endeavour should be made when making an enemy report to distinguish between genuine troop carrying craft and others that may be used as indicated in paragraph (1)
(A.C.N.S. H. 1319/16 to C's in C.)

Burning Oil for Coast Defence — C. in C., Portsmouth's 4470/0115 G. of 31/8/40. Plans to be submitted to Adty. for installing this defence at entrance of or inside Ports considered suitable. Where possible, oil should be piped direct from existing installations and pipes led under water. (D. of L.D. 1847/16)

Movements

ESMERALDA — Sailed (F.O.i/c Portland 0244/16)

Nore Command — Anticipated night dispositions 16/17 Sept. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/16)
Patrol O during present week (C. in C., 1521/16)

GAVOTTE — Arrived (F.O.i/c Greenock 0901/16)

Dover Patrols — Night 16/17 Sept. (V.A.Dover 1518/16)

Orkneys & Shetlands — Movement tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/16)
State of A/S Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1930/16)

N.P. Trawler Line — Trawlers occupying 16/9. (A.C.O.S. 1536/16)

Portsmouth — Night movement signal (C. in C., Portsmouth 1537/16)

/WITHERINGTON.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

WITHERINGTON BLYSKAWICA	To meet CALIFORNIA 0630/17 and proceed to Southampton if conditions favourable, otherwise Plymouth. Fighter cover will be asked for from dawn/17. (C. in C., W.A. 1553/16)
BASSETT TOURMALINE	To join F.N. 83. 1730/17 as additionnal escort until meeting F.S. 84 near Outer Dowsing which they are to escort to South Shipwash. Thence returning to Harwich (F.O.i/c Harwich 1750/16)
MALCOLM VERITY VENOMOUS	Leave Harwich 1915/16 for patrol (C. in C., Nore, 1827/16)
Duty Destroyers etc.,	From 1200/17 (Capt. D. 21 1827/16)
Western Approaches	Movements (C. in C., W.A. 1835/16)
PRETORIA CASTLE	To sail from Clyde 1900/17 unescorted for Freetown. Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 2222/16)
SHARPSHOOTER	To sail for Harwich 1400/17. (C. in C., Rosyth 2251/16)
HIBISCUS	Arrived Clyde (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1450/16)

Operations

Dover Shelled	10 Shells in 2 salvoes fell in Dover Area between 1100 and 1110 2 behind Town, 2 in Town, 5 in harbour, and 1 outside the Detached Mole. Six Military wounded. (V.A.Dover 1929/16)
Interception of Convoy	Proceed with 15th C.S. and 9th Division of destroyers towards 56° North 00° 01' East to be in position to intercept enemy convoy of eleven ships reported by aircraft at 2114 in position 55° 20' N., 2° 32' E., steering West at slow speed. (C. in C., H.F. 0016/16 to C.S. 15.)

/Now.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Now proceeding (C. in C., Rosyth 0139/16)
Departures C.S. 15 in NAIAD, BONAVENTURE TARTAR, ASHANTI, PUNJABI. (C. in C., Rosyth 0144/16) Return to Rosyth (C. in C., H.F. 0246/16 to C.S. 15.)
C.S. 15's Force returned to Rosyth. (C. in C., Rosyth 0608/16)

Interception of Minesweepers

Admiralty suspect enemy minesweeping by night in mine barrier North of Gap E.
3 Destroyers of 16th D.F. are to carry out patrol T tonight with object of intercepting enemy craft approaching or leaving mine barrier. They are not to go North of 52° 45' N., or East of 3° 40' E.
Report ships detailed and time of sailing. (C. in C., Nore, 1744/16 to D. 16.)

MALCOLM, VERITY and VENOMOUS sailing at 1910 (D.16. 1901/16 to C. in C., Nore)

Iceland

HONNINGVAAG escorting CLERMISTON sailed Akureyri and Seydisfiord (N.O. I.C. Iceland 0935/16 to Adty.)

Observation minefields to be laid at Seidisfjord, Eyjafjord and Hrutafjord in that order. Every effort is being made to complete these this autumn but unlikely that work will be able to continue after weather breaks.
Armed trawlers up to number requested by the F.O.I.C. are being fitted out. Five should sail very shortly.
The F.O.I.C. reports request been made through H.M. Minister for certain ports to be closed from sunset to sunrise, including all defended ports other than Reykjavik.
(D. of L.D. 1932/16 to War Office)

/Night Patrols....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Night Patrols in Dover Area

Request arrangements be made for dark hours patrol from either Nore or Portsmouth Command to cover waters of Dover Area each night. To be shared by Nore and Portsmouth Commands working on alternate days. (A.C.N.S. H. 1250/16)

The destroyers of 21st D.F. are to patrol in Dover Area tomorrow night Tuesday and then on alternate nights until further notice.
Destroyers to leave Sheerness at 1830 and patrol between Nos. 1 and 10 Buoys unless otherwise ordered by V.A.Dover returning to Sheerness leaving South Goodwin at 0530.
(C. in C., Nore, 1516/16 to D. 21)

Tonight HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, VISCOUNT, BEAGLE patrol Eastward to Lydd. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1617/16 to Adty.)
a.m. 1250/16. Portsmouth tonight.
(C. in C., Porstmouth 1627/16 yo Adty.)

JAVELIN
KELVIN
JAGUAR

Extend you Patrol as far as Scarborough (C. in C., Nore 0049/16 to JAVELIN)

Submarines

Operation F.D. 27

CACHALOT sails from Rothesay 2300/16 escorted by CUTTY SARK to 270° Bishop Rock 15 miles, thence diving by day through 48° N., 6° 42' W., (V. A. 1108/16 to Adty.)

RUBIS

To leave Patrol 2100/17 Route. (Capt. S. 9. 1427/6 to RUBIS)

Adty.
1833/7/7

Greenock Area Movements. (F.O.I.C. 1632/16)

Positions

For following 24hours at 0700/17. (V.A.S. 1743/16)

/Third Patrol.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Third Patrol in Channel

Request you will establish this when S/Ms become available. (V.C.N.S. 2137/16 to V.A.S.)

Admiralty's 2137. URSULA and SWORDFISH to sail for Portsmouth as soon as ready and are to be lent temporarily to 5th Flotilla, S/M's should be sailed with a convoy as far as Thames and thence with escort as provided by C. in C., Nore so as to pass Dungeness at daybreak. Thereafter they should proceed independently to Portsmouth diving by day. (V.A.S. 2251/16 to S. 6.)

British Air Activity

Ijmuiden

At 1955/16 aircraft torpedoed and blew up one M/V of 3000 to 5000 tons in the Inner Harbour. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 0220/16)

Bergen

Propose a night attack on Oil Tanks at Bergen using 801 Squadron and 12 Swordfish with bombs. Request approval (A.C.O.S. 1055/16 to C. in C., H.F.) Concur. But would prefer Ships to be attacked if met. (C. in C., H.F. 1356/16 to A.C.O.S.)

Orkneys

Consider that Hurricanes at Sumburgh should be moved to Orkney Sector until re-inforcement takes place. (Air Ministry 1330/16 to Fighter Command)

Night 15/16

Aircraft attacked Gris Nez., Ostend, Dunkirk, Flushing, Calais, Cuxhaven, shipping south of Terschelling, docks at Wesermunde, barges East of Wangerooge, Hamburg, and Wilhelmshaven. (H.Q.B.C. 1852/16 and 0255/17)

Channel Convoys
Mobile Balloon

May be flying at any time day or night between Sheerness and Southampton Water by way of Calshot, Solent, Needles, and Thames Estuary. (Air Ministry 1946/16 and 0150/17)

Rosyth Area
Air Searches

For 17/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 2000/16)

MOST SECRET

16.9.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Bristol Channel
Air-Raid 10-11/9

Damage and Casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1600/11)

ASKA

Bombed, on fire at 55° 15' N. 5° 55' W., (Malin Head Radio 0147/16) Afloat and burning at 55° 24' N., 6° 5' W Have about 440 survivors. (JASON 0845/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) JASON with survivors arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/16 to Adty.)

HALLAND

(1264/tons) At 2200/15 in 070° Dunbar 8 miles in Convoy F.N. 79 sunk by aircraft. 5 Survivors picked up by H.M.T. HILDENA, transferred to Dutch SPARTA and now proceeding to Methil. (C. in C., Rosyth 0353/16 to Adty.) 5 survivors landed at Methil from LLANDAFF CASTLE. Believed no others. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1118/16 to Adty.) Cancel my 0801. Proceed to ASKA. 2 trawlers standing by. ENDEAVOUR to salve her. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1321/16 to SALVONIA) Attacking aircraft, probably 2, destroyed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1533/16 to Adty.)

CITY OF MOBILE

Proceeding independently, bombed and sunk at 0720/16 in 54° 23' N., 5° 16' 30" W., Crew of 32 safe and due Fleetwood p.m. to-day in Fishing Trawler SKIKKER (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1224/16 to Adty.)

Convoy PILOT
(F.N. 81)

Enemy bombing in 54° 25' N., 0° 24' W., (WESTMINSTER 1913/16) 3 bombs No hits (WESTMINSTER 1915/16)

Dover

One aircraft dropped 6 incendiary bombs on Archcliff and 2 H.E. delay action Bombs at Elmsvale at 0830/16. No casualties. (V.A.Dover 1929/16 to Adty)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining:

Liverpool — Port closed. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0128/16) Port Open (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1100/16)

Thames Estuary — LOCUST reports Parachute with mine attached dropped by aircraft at 500 feet at 2155/15 in 51° 31' 6" N., 1° 4' 21" E., Mine exploded 8 seconds after entering water. (C. in C., Nore, 1055/16 to Adty.)

Sweep of 4.Z.F. 17. — 3 M/S Trawlers sweeping channel from N. Goodwin L.V. to S. Goodwin L.V. outside Goodwin Sands. Request fighter protection from 0600/17 till return to Dover at about 1000/17. (V.A.Dover 1751/16 to H.Q.F.C.)

Thames Estuary — Explosion, believed of Mine, occurred 10 yards from port quarter of HOLDERNESS at 1210/16 in 51° 29' 18" N., 0° 58' 27" E., (C. in C., Nore 2117/16 to Adty.)

Fairlight — Coastguard report 4 explosions and Flashes at 2200/16, 204° Fairlight 10 miles (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 2212/16 to Adty.)

New Type of Mine — Explosion 6 yards astern of M.F.V. SUNBEAM III All wooden ship, 040° Inchkeith Light 6.5 miles in 12 fathoms. Ship now beached for examination of hull and fittings. (C. in C., Rosyth 2229/16)

Enemy Intelligence

Barges in Dutch & French Ports — Situation of ships and Barges in Low Countries and in French Ports as known at 0900/16 is given in C.I.C. report No 109. See also Bomber Command Intelligence Summary No 427.

Enemy Convoy — My 0049. Bomber Command reports 11 ships at 2114/15 in 55° 20' N., 2° 32' E., steering slowly West. (C. in C., Nore 0051/16 to JAVELIN, KELVIN, JAGUAR)

/Report of.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

SCHELDE — Tug. Arrived Campbeltown and reports has been in collision with JASON and sustained some damage. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1450/16 to Adty)

CITY OF DUNDEE — Your 1114/14. Not overdue from Penang. (S.O. 1. Singapore, 0639 Z/16 to S.O. 1. Cape Town)

CALCHAS — My 0519/28/8. Presume your 1114/14 refers to CALCHAS as being overdue from Penang. (S.O. 1. Singapore 0639/16 to S.O.I. Cape Town)

PEIK — Norwegian tanker (6099 tons) your 0345/5. Has not arrived at Bombay (S.O.1. Bombay 0945Z/16 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Report of 60 M/V's and 2 Destroyers off Ameland	Your 2356/15. Observer's Report is as follows. (C. in C., Nore 0119/16 to Adty) Coastal Command now report only 10 large M/V's in this convoy, one of which has been hit by bomb. Remainder are barges and trawlers. Amended latitude in 52° 20' N., (D.O.D. H. 0305/16)
6 Surface Craft	Reported at 0320 at 100° Dover 9 miles (N.O.I.C. Dover 0325/16 to ICARUS)
Beachy Head	4 suspicious vessels reported 180° Beachy Head 10 miles at 0315 (C. in C., Portsmouth 0354/16 to HIGHLANDER)
Cherbourg	P.R.U. Reconnaissance on 15/9. (H.Q.C.C. 1315/16)
Embarkation of Motor Boats	A photograph taken at 1200/14 shows ship of about 5000 tons at Hook alongside N. side of new waterway near railway station with deck-cargo of 16 small M/B's about 30 feet long. This is first direct evidence of embarkation of M/B's and suggests their use will not be confined to Straits of Dover area. (A.C.N.S. H. 1537/16)
Ijmuiden Walcheren Scheldt Zeebrugge Dunkirk Calais	Summary of R/C reports received since 0900/16/9. (D.D.I.C. 1756/16)
French & Dutch Ports	Shipping and Barges on 16/9. (H.Q.B.C. 0255/17, H.Q.C.C.. 0900/17, St Eval, 1300/17)

MOST SECRET

16.9.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
F.S. 82.	Shadowed and reported by enemy aircraft at 1650 (D.D.I.C. 2035/16)
F.S. 81.	Shadowed and reported by enemy aircraft at 0747 (D.C., 0932/16)
C.E. 11.	Request fighter protection. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1943/16, C. in C., Nore 1546/16)
F.N. 83.	A/S trawlers to form additional escort until F.S. 84 met. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1750/16)
S.C. 3.	OTTAWA escort Clyde portion. WANDERER and WITCH Liverpool portion. (C. in C. W.A., 1629/16) ARSENAL to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 2200/16) Survivors of DUNDEE and EMPIRE VOLUNTEER. (H.M.C.S., Ottawa 1041/16)
H.X. 71.	Position to steer for when escorts have joined. (C. in C., W.A. 0010/17)
O.L. 3.	2 destroyers to escort from Clyde. 18/9 (C. in C., W.A., 1053/16) KEPPEL and ACTIVE detailed (D. 12. 1901/16) Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1734/16)
O.A. 213.	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1140/16) to alter course to avoid S/M to south (C. in C., W.A. 0012/16)
O.A. 215	Details (N.C.S.O. Methil 1025/11 1010/16)
W.N. 15.	Arrived 1925/16 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1931/16)
F.N. 79.	Air Attacks on 2130-2200/15 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1533/16)
MYTILUS	To sail Liverpool fro Portsmouth (D.O.D. (H) 2347/16, C. in C., W.A., 0103/17)
EMPIRE BEAVER ex RUTH KELLOG	To sail Clyde for Plymouth (D.D.D.(H) 2247/16, D.T.D., 2030/16, C. in C., W.A., 0103/17)
RANPURA	To leave convoy after dark to return Halifax (C. in C., W.A., 1010/16)

/Use of W/T.....

MOST SECRET

16.9.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Use of W/T

W.A.C.I. Sec. E. para. 3 3 and 4.
Desired to reduce to a minimum occasions on which escorts break W/T silence, present orders may result in enemy aircraft in particular obtaining information of convoys movements. Request remarks. (C. in C., W.A., 1150/16 to F.O.C.C.S., C. in C., H.F. etc.,)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Operation abandoned

H.M.G. have decided that presence of French Cruisers at Dakar renders execution of Operation "Menace" impracticable. Alternative plans have been examined. Close blockade of Dakar from seaward is not possible with the Naval forces available. Best plan appears to be for General de Gaulle's force to land at Duala with the object of consolidating the Cameroons, Equatorial Africa and Chad, and extending influence of de Gaulle to Libreville. British portion of the force would remain for the present at Freetown.
Unless General de Gaulle has any strong objections to the latter course it should be put into operation forthwith. (1st S.L. 1400/16)

20. Request you communicate substance of Admty. 1400/16 to General de Gaulle and inform him that I will discuss it with him tomorrow on my arrival (S.O.Force M., 1441/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

Position at Dakar

Admty. 1400/16 and my 1441N/16. Before consulting de Gaulle Force Commanders suggest arrival of cruisers does not materially alter previous naval situation except that both CORNWALL and CUMBERLAND can be included in Force M. (? to provide) adequate force to deal with cruisers if they put to sea.
At present cruisers present excellent bombing targets. Admty. 1825/14 indicates some disaffection in French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET. These factors disclose unreadiness and possibly unwillingness for action and therefore susceptibility to de Gaulle's leaflets Although it is now known garrison includes 3 battalions more than information upon which original plan was prepared, military situation remains unaltered by arrival of cruisers unless we must assume morale has been raised, since reduction in fixed defences has always been a prerequisite of landing British troops. (S.O. Force M., 1642N/16 to Admty.)

/Future Action....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" -Contd.

Future Action

Your 1642/16. Consider the whole situation yourselves, and consult de Gaulle. Have you considered the possibility of French cruisers having taken reinforcements to Dakar? (1st S.L. 2352/16 to S.O. Force H.)

Duala Project. Plans

My 1400/16. Arrangements suggested. (1st S.L. 2355/16 to S.O. Force H.) Cancelled- See 2348/17)

North Atlantic

Watch on French Ships

Your 1645/15. Difficulties of getting information of forces approaching Straits recognised but best reconnaissance available must be employed. If any forces sighted they should be shadowed by Force H pending further instructions.
If French make use of Spanish Territorial Waters, we need not refrain from similar action when shadowing them.
A limit of 20 miles from French territory need not be adhered to, but it is not desired to have an incident with the French.
Whole future policy is under consideration.
(1st S.L. 0145/16 to S.O. Force H)

Escort

Your 1936/15. Confirmed additional escort as requested will be available (F.O.C.N.A., to Admty., 1036/16)

Flying Boat Shot Down

My 0930/15. Admiral Casablanca reports Flying boat was shot down by French Fighters for "Flying over forbidden zone" Reliable information has been received from a neutral source at Casablanca that aircraft approaching 20 miles of that part will be fired on. (F.O.C.N.S. 1206/16)
1 further airman of K 9682 unhurt.
Now established aircraft was shot down by French fighters. No news of 2 officers (200 Group 1720/16 to Air Ministry)

/Casablanca.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Casablanca Intelligence — Re establishing facilities for rapid transmission of intelligence from Casablanca. (F.O.C.N.A., to Admty., 1308/16)

Ammunition — Your 1020/11. Decision re 15-in ammunition (Hd. of M., to F.O. Force H., 1915/16)

French Destroyer — FRONDEUR escorting merchant ships now passing through Straits from West. Allowed to proceed in accordance your 2030/11/8. (F.O.C.N.A., 2006/16)

Casablanca Patrol — RENOWN and destroyers to proceed to a position to southward of Casablanca and be prepared to establish patrol off that place if ordered. (V.C.N.S., 2359/16)

POITIERS Scuttled — French ship POITIERS scuttled and set herself on fire, crew abandoned ship. 13. 09' N., 17.32' W., at 1300. Fire out of control (see South Atlantic)

South Atlantic

POITIERS Scuttled. CUMBERLAND. Patrol — French ship POITIERS scuttled and set herself on fire. Crew abandoned ship in 13.09 N., 17.32 W., at 1300. Fire out of control. (CUMBERLAND, 1355Z/16) Ship gave her position to Dakar before scuttling. Have sunk ship by gunfire, all crew 35 saved. Am withdrawing to S.W. in case of retaliation from Dakar and will continue to patrol further south. (CUMBERLAND 1459N/16) Repeat future signals on this subject to Admty. (S.O.Force M., to CUMBERLAND, 1643/16 Log indicates that ship bound Dakar to Tabu. Correspondence suggests eventual destination further south. Captain stated ammunition in cargo but no confirmation. Captain and crew pro Vichy and stated had orders from Naval Authorities to scuttle. (CUMBERLAND 2137N/16) Asking for information re state of Dakar from crew (1st S.L. to CUMBERLAND, 1033/17)

/RESOLUTION.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

RESOLUTION, BARHAM, CORNWALL	Arrival 2330/15, RESOLUTION, BARHAM and destroyers FAULKNOR FORESTER and FORESIGHT. Departure 0005/16. CORNWALL on patrol in accordance C. in C., S.A., 2117/15 (S.O.I., Freetown, 0101/16) Orders to CORNWALL (C. in C., S.A., 2007N/16)
Suspicious Ship	Ship possibly Spanish DOMINE approx. 09.55 N., 17.05 W., course N.W. at 0700 (ARK ROYAL, 1047/16)
DELHI DRAGON	To comply with my 2117/15. Economy in fuel on passage desirable. (C. in C., S.A., 1355N/16)
S.O.S.	Ascension reports hearing S.O.S. without any position at 1717 G.M.T./16 Probably within 200 miles of Ascension. (C. in C., S.A., 1931N/16)
Free French Ships	My 1325/15. Following French ships definitely under Free French control. CHATEAUROUX, FORT BINGER, TOMBOUCTOU, FORT DE TROYON (C. in C., S.A., 1954/16)
MANDALAY	Overdue shipping, my 1114/14, MANDALAY passed Cape of Good Hope 0900/16 bound Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1154N/16)
French Submarine	Following from Paterson. Informed by Gen. Larminat name of second French Submarine at Libreville is PONCELET (Consul Gen, Leopoldville, 1800/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air Reconnaissance	H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1316/16.
Convoy W.S. 2.A	Arrived Suez slow group (list) (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1219/16)
Hurricane Aircraft	Supply stopped for the present. Appears that a second "Hurry" Operation may be necessary. (C. in C., Med., 1245/16)
Plans and Liaison	C.O.S. Telegram No 9. Welcome new section and proposed method of working plan (C. in C., Med., 1601/16)
ARGUS	Greek. Requesting information of whereabouts. Last heard of Algiers 23/6 (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1650/16)
Malta Stores	Re plans for provisioning of Malta and allocation of shipping (D. of S.T. to Governor, Malta, 1936/16)
Derna Bombed	813 Sqdn. F.A.A. successful bombing attack shipping in Derna Harbour, no further details. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1124/17)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

PEIK

Your 0345/5. Norwegian PEIK has not arrived Bombay. (S.O.I., Bombay, 09452/16).

U.S.4.

Your 1248/13. New Zealand Government express view that escort proposed in your 1200/22/9 is inadequate.
They are being informed that no further escort available.
If possible the escort originally proposed of one "C" Class cruiser and one A.M.C. should be adhered to.
(D.O.D.(F) 1507/16, to C.-in-C., E.I.)

Your 1507/16. KANIMBLA will escort B N 5 & ½ in addition to SCOUT.
In consequence, ORCADES BATORY and ELLENGA will be delayed some 3 days and other plans are upset.
Note with regret that appreciation of what escorts are adequate in Arabian Sea differs from mine.
(C.-in-C., E.I., 1934/16 to Admiralty).

PERLA
Submarine.

Asking why not destroyed. (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN).

Convoys

Arrival 16/9 04002, DUNOON;
1200 Z. HOBART, KANDAHAR with B.S. 4 and 5½. (N.O.I.C., Aden 1335 Z/16).

Convoy
B.N.5½

Cancel my 1230/15. KANIMBLA will escort B.N.5½ in addition to COLOMBO.
Request you sail BATORY, ORCADES and STRATHEDEN escorted by WESTRALIA for Colombo as soon as possible after WESTRALIA's arrival at Bombay.
WESTRALIA will escort ORCADES from Colombo to vicinity of Mauritius where ARAWA will take over escort.

CAPETOWN will escort BATORY and STRATHEDEN from Colombo to rendezvous off Madres where ELLENGA will join Convoy. CAPETOWN will control Convoy to vicinity of Achin Head.
(C.-in-C., E.I., 1942 Z/16.)

/ ZEILA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Zeila — Bombed by Blenheim aircraft at 1954, starting fire.

China.

EMPRESS OF ASIA — Re accidential bombing of Japanese Naval Air Force. Vessel sailed to schedule after repairs. (Craigie, Tokyo, 0405/16).

Overdue Ship. — Your 1114/14. CITY OF DUNDEE not overdue from Penang. Presume CALCHAS is meant, reference my 0519/28/8. (S.O.I., Singapore, 0839 Z/16 to S.O.I., Cape Town).

Dutch Submarines. — N.C.S.O. Batavia reports Dutch Authorities are attaching 3 submarines to three slow merchant ships bound to CAPE TOWN. He has pointed out necessity for co-operation with us and Officer leaving for Singapore (C.-in-C., China, 1315 Z/16).
Your 1617/14. Question of operating Dutch submarines now under consideration by Netherlands Government in United Kingdom. Pending further instructions no action should be taken. (D.O.D.(F) to C.-in-C., China, 2139/16).

America and West Indies.

LAPONIA
S.O.S. — Intercept De Vry, Demerara Radio, S.O.S. from LAPONIA (Swedish 5609 tons) 35.00 N., 69.15 W. (Valentia Radio 0240/16).

DELAMBRE
Boat found. — Consular Office, Ceasa, reports from local press that lifeboat No. 4 from Lamport and Holt s.s. DELAMBRE (7032 tons) washed ashore off River Pacoty, south of Mucisipe Point contained 2 broken oars and box with first aid appliance (N.C.S.O., Pernambuco, 1742/16).

/U.S. Destroyers.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Destroyers.

My 1753/13. Sailing of first Town Flotilla postponed 24 hours on account of weather (F.O. 3 B.S. 2231/16)

U.S. Bases.

My 1301/8. Comments of Governors concerned. (C.-in-C., America and West Indies 1851/16).

Australia.

U.S.5.

PERTH, escorting U.S.5 (H.M.T. transports CARISTIAAN, HUYGENS, NIEUW, HOLLAND, SLAMAT and INDRAPOERA, left R.V. in Bass Straits 16/9 for Falmouth. (B.C.N.B. 0730 Z/16 amended 0145 Z/17).

Troop Transport.

1319/3, S.S.T.O. Bombay 1212/7. 1800 Military all ranks are available for embarkation from Sydney to Middle East about end of September. (NIEUW, ZEELAND and JOHAN DE WITT will be ready to sail about this time. Escort available Sydney to rendezvous vicinity Cocos Is. ADELAIDE, rendezvous to Colombo, CANBERRA. Request advice whether this proposal acceptable and whether onward escort will be available. (A.C.N.B. 1028 Z/16, to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.9.1940.
Monday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

DENTICE

Left yesterday for Puerto Cabello in tow of Government tug, calling at Puntan Macolla for bunkers.
(S.O.I., Kingston, 0845/16)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.9.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

HARPENDEN (torpedoed 10/9)	Arrived in tow of MARAUDER (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1450/16)
THORNLEA (torpedoed 2/9)	Survivors arrived Sydney in Norwegian HILD, Chief Officer and 13 men, rescued 18 hours after sinking (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1910/16)
DUNDEE (torpedoed 14/9)	20 survivors in GRANFOSS (H.M.C.S. Ottawa, 1041/16)
EMPIRE VOLUNTEER	British 5319 tons, 27 survivors in GRANFOSS (H.M.C.S., Ottawa, 1041/16). No particulars of attack or damage known. Was homeward bound in Convoy S.C.3. (D.O.R., 17/9) (D.S.378)
JAMES KING.	Intercept at 2220 G.M.T., JAMES KING, S.S.S. 58° 42' N., 15 - 22 W., attacked by submarine (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2220/16)
CROWN ARUN	British 2372 tons attacked by submarine, 58 - 42 N., 15 - 22 W. (hands End Radio, 2324/16) Straggler ahead of Convoy H.X.71, Montreal to Hull with pit props. (D.S.378) Sunk on 17/9 - See 17/9.
HIRD	Norwegian, now reported sunk in 58° N., 12 - 20 W., at 1931/14 (D.S.378) D.O.R., 16/9)
2320	A Submarine, Reported N., 15 - 22 W., at 2220 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0056/17) WINCHELSEA ordered to attack. (C.-in-C., Western Approaches, 0003/17).
1927.	By aircraft, 59 - 58 N., 5 - 10 W., Submarine dived (Q, 269 Squadron, 1927/16)
1715	D.F., unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 55 - 30 N., 10 - 30 W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2138/16)

/ Estimated .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.9.1940.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian. No news of the 2 thought to be between Azores and Spain. Poddibly 1 more off Cape St. Vincent. 1230/15

German. No indication of present whereabouts of the one reported in 54° 2' N., 12° 46' W., at 0734/15. Reliability of report uncertain
1 far out in Atlantic, possibly now between 57° and 59° N., and W. of 20° W.,
Possibly 1 still in N.W. Approaches.
1 about 60' N.W. of St. Kilda, homeward bound.
1 about 58° 30' N., 4° 30' E., Homeward bound. (D.D.I.C., 1316/16)

Submarines Attacked

6/9 — By TRIBUNE. Admty congratulations to ship's company on s ccessful attack. (D.A/S.W., 1149/16)

2/9 — By TIGRIS. Admty congratulations to Ship's Company on successful attack. (D.A./S W. 1148/16)

1118 — A/C attacked suspected submarine, result unknown, position 59.05 N., 5.56 W., (Duty S., 201 Sqdn. 1130/16) Pilot of A/C S/201. Special A/S patrol North of Hebrides-reports at 1036 investigated oil streak 1 mile long semicircular taperingnto a point. Dropped seamarker and smokefloat from which it appeared that streak was moving across wind. 1st D/C dropped at 1118, 50 yards ahead of oil streak but failed to explode. 2nd D/C dropped on same spot, this exploded and apparently set off the first as two distinct upheavals were seen. No further result observed, and after circling the spot for 15 minutes A/C resumed patrol. (Donibristle 1825/16) Attack would appear to be on wreck referred to in my 1212/19/6. (A.C.O.S., 1919/16)

Mediterranean & East Indies

PERLA — Your 20102/11. Could steps have been taken to ensure the destruction of this U-Boat? (D.A.S.W. to C. in C., E.I., 2300/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Patrol to Lydd

HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, VISCOUNT and BEAGLE from Portsmouth patrolled eastward as far as Dungeness last night. No enemy were sighted.

Patrol off Gap E.

Minesweeping by the enemy at night is suspected in the mine barrier north of Gap E. MALCOLM, VERITY and VENOMOUS carried out a patrol last night to intercept any enemy craft approaching or leaving the mine barrier.

State of Readiness

Boiler cleaning is being resumed at Flag Officers discretion.

Interchange of "W" and "H" Class Destroyers

The recent withdrawal of 8 destroyers from Liverpool has made it very difficult to provide the special escorts for which only destroyers can be used. The "W" class destroyers are more useful than "H" class for anti-invasion duties, and consequently 4 "H" class are to be sent to Western Approaches Command from Portsmouth and replaced by MACKAY, WANDERER and WITCH from Western Approaches.

Preparations for Invasion

It is estimated that there are now about 150 merchant vessels of all sizes, including small coasters, distributed in ports between Delfzijl and Cherbourg, and about 1500 to 2000 small craft and barges. The merchant vessels are mostly at ports at either end of the area and the barges in the centre. There is a barge concentration of both merchant vessels and barges at Le Havre, the total of merchant ships being 52.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

On account of unfavourable weather all operations last night were cancelled The strength of the wind increased early last night, Anti-invasion reconnaissance was not possible during last night.

During today individual aircraft attacked 5 large cargo boats at Zeebrugge and 30 barges off Ostend and Antwerp docks. Results were not observed. Hits were made on barges at Stelburg (25 miles S.W. of Rotterdam) A convoy was attacked, 6 miles North of Hook of Holland, but results were not observed.

Today, all air patrols, air searches and convoy escorts were postponed, owing to low visibility, until the evening when patrols were carried out between 52° and 59° N.

Photographic reconnaissances were carried out of various ports between the Frisian Islands and Channel Is.

Enemy Air Operations

Enemy bombing activity was on a small scale today.

Civil damage was caused at Portsmouth this afternoon.
Other places bombed without damage or with only negligible damage were Harwich, Swansea, Port Talbot, Crewe Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow.
Very slight damage was done to oil tanks at Sheerness today by incendiary bombs.

SS KALLIOPIS (Greek) was bombed and abandoned off Tory Island at 0730. She was a straggler from H.X. 70. MARAUDER attempted to get her in, without success. A tug has been sent.

/The Master.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

The Master of the SS FIREGLOW reports that on the morning of 15/9 he saw convoy F.S. 81 machine gunned by an enemy aircraft painted white with a superimposed Red Cross.

Magnetic mines were dropped by parachute at various points in the South east of England.

During a gale last night 22 out of 48 barrage balloons at Plymouth were lost.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft off the East Coast early this morning is suspected.

The Clyde was reopened to coastwise vessels early this morning.

Another case occurred of an explosion apparently of a new type of mine within 200 ft astern of SS AIGVALD who had just passed over the spot and was going full speed astern before anchoring.

Two Swordfish of Coastal Command laid mines last night successfully at Le Havre.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

French Cruisers

S.O. Force H in RENOWN with ENCOUNTER, WRESTLER, GRIFFIN and VIDETTE left Gibraltar at 0330 today, to proceed to a position southward of Casablanca in preparation for establishing a patrol if required.

S.O.Force H does not consider it practicable to establish effective surface or close submarine night patrol off Casablanca; he suggests that a submarine patrol further south might be of value. FIREDRAKE and GALLANT sailed from Gibraltar at 0900 to join S.O.Force H.

South Atlantic

Patrols

CORNWALL and DELHI are patrolling in the Gulf of Guinea. DRAGON left Lagos 1300/17 for patrol.

A French warship, suspected to be the cruiser PRIMAUGET with an oiler was reported at 0530 yesterday 120 miles West of Freetown, steering a course as if for Duala, Libreville or Point Noire. CORNWALL, DELHI and DRAGON are to rendezvous at 0700 to-morrow and endeavour to locate the warships

DEVONSHIRE (S.O.Force M) and AUSTRALIA returned to Freetown at 0602 today with FURY and ECHO.

Wireless transmission from a German Naval Unit was heard W.N.W. from Simonstown at 1230 today. The bearing was approximately the same as that of the raider reported 14/9 300 miles S.W. of St. Helena.

It is reported that the position at Point Noire is now stabilised.
De Gaulle's representation was given an excellent reception there yesterday.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

The Italian attack on Egypt having commenced A.P. 1 and A.P. 2 are to be hastened.

Air Raid on Malta

There was an air raid on Malta this -afternoon when damage was done at Luqa Aerodrome by dive bombers. Fighters shot down 3 of the enemy. Prisoners stated that the enemy dive bombers came from an underground hanger on Pantillaria Island.

Bombardment of Sollum and Bardia

LADYBIRD left Mersa Matruh p.m. today to bombard Sollum and the Escarpment road by moonlight. JUNO and JANUS are to support her and carry out harassing fire along the coast from Sidi Barrani to Sollum. KENT, NUBIAN and MOHAWK were detached by VALF p.m. today to bombard dump areas by moonlight.

Air Raid on Matruh

Matruh was bombed last night, but no damage resulted.

East Indies

One Blenheim bombed Zeila this evening starting a fire. Massawa and Asmara were also attacked.

One aircraft dropped bombs on Aden today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Interchange of "H" and "W" class Destroyers

Propose that four H-class Destroyers be withdrawn from Portsmouth and replaced by MACKAY, WANDERER and WITCH; or that WANDERER and WITCH should replace HAVELOCK and one other H-class Destroyer to assist in providing special escorts at Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A., 1323/17 to Adty.) I agree that W-class would be more suitable than H-Class in Portsmouth Command (C. in C., Portsmouth 1803/17 to Adty.) Approved four four H-class Destroyers to be replaced by MACKAY, WANDERER and WITCH. Relief to take ph place South of Bristol Channel. (V.C.N.A., 1940/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

Operation A/3 Trawlers

For operational purposes only propose following temporary grouping of A/S Trawlers based on Harwich. (F.O. Harwich 0011/17 to C. in C., Nore) Concur in principle subject to Corvettes and A/S Trawlers being interchangeable as additional Convoy Escorts according to circumstances (C. in C., Nore, 1015/18 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command Notice for Steam

No air R/C during night. Available cruisers, Destroyers and Corvettes in harbour to remain at half hours notice for steam until further orders. (C. in C., Nore, 0501/17) Revert to normal notice for steam as in my 1035/12 (C. in C., Nore, 0743/17) Ships other than Duty Destroyers revert to 4 hours notice for steam until 2000 This applies to to-day only. (C. in C., Nore, 0917/17) Routine boiler cleaning with boiler cleaning leave may now be resumed. C. in C., to be informed of intentions in case of Destroyers. (C. in C., Nore, 1736/17)

Notice For Steam

My 2225/6. Boiler cleaning may be resumed at Flag Officers discretion. (A.C.N.S., H. 1316/17 to Cs in C.)

MOST SECRET

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Invasion procedure as to orders for Steam

On an enemy report being received there will be certain forces which it is essential to get to sea as rapidly as possible. To achieve this is essential:-
(a) That the Admiralty or senior officer under whom the forces are working should in the first instance make a short signal ordering steam to be raised, any instructions which it is necessary to send being despatched subsequently.
(b) Senior officers of detached forces should on their own initiative order the ships under their command to raise steam. (1st S.L. 1847/17 to Cs. in C.)

Following from C. in C., W.A. Begins: In gale last night 16/17 twenty two barrage balloons out of a total of forty eight carried away and were lost including all water borne balloons.

REVENGE, NEWCASTLE and EMERALD berthed in Sound at immediate notice are now unprotected by balloons. The Military close range A.A. gun defences mounted on shore consist of four Bofors guns and a few light automatics only and it is strongly urged that these be increased as soon as possible. 1606/17. Ends.
2. Immediate requirements in other areas are fully appreciated but request urgent consideration to re-provision of defences for these important anti invasion units of the Fleet.
3. Consider that, as an interim measure, R.M. two pounder battery mentioned in Admiralty's 15/11/17 should be deployed in Plymouth in preference to Portsmouth Area.
(D. of L.D., 2233/17 to Air Ministry)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

WITCH	Detached midnight to Bangor to refuel, rejoining this a.m. (OTTAWA 0559/17 to C. in C., W.A.)
Nore	Dispositions for night 17/18. (C. in C., Nore 0800/17) Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/18. (C. in C., Nore 1200/17)
Harwich	Departure at 1909/17 WIVERN, WILD SWAN, VENOMOUS. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1014/17)
EGRET	Expect arrive 20.C Buoy at 0200/18. (EGRET 1016/17 to C. in C., Rosyth)
SHARPSHOOTER	My 2251/16. Amend destination to read Humber. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1147/17 to SHARPSHOOTER)
KENYA	Acceptance Trials from 0615 to 1915/20 Request escort. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1236/17 to C. in C., W.A.)
CALIFORNIA	CALIFORNIA's 1058/17 and my 1553/16. CALIFORNIA is to proceed to Southampton Request C. in C., Portsmouth to order route and time of arrival. Destroyer escort to remain in company and arrive -Plymouth 1730/19 (C. in C., W.A. 1327/17)
NIGERIA	2 Destroyers to R/V with NIGERIA passing Tyne Pier Head at 800/19 and provide A/S screen during Trials and passage to Rosyth (C. in C., H.F. 1431/17 to D. 4.) TARTAR and MAORI detailed (Capt. D. 4. 2017/17 to C. in C., H.F.) Request Fighter protection 0800/19 till arrival Rosyth about 1400/19.(C. in C., Rosyth 1722/17 to H.Q.F.C.)
Dover	Patrols for night 17/18 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1623/17)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 17/18 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1623/17)
PRETORIA CASTLE	My 2222/16. Amend time of sailing to 1400/18 (F.O.C.N.P. 1758/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

A/S Patrol off Hebrides — My 2000/16. Cancel para 1 and substitute A/S patrol of following Area all day. (C. in C., Rosyth 0114/17)

Channel Patrol — Tonight 17/9 WOLVERINE, HARVESTER, VANOC, BULLDOG Patrol Eastward to limit of Dover Command (C. in C., Portsmouth 1643/17)

Submarines

SWORDFISH, URSULA — Will join convoy F.S. 84 at 20 D Buoy at 2045/17 for escort to Thames (C. in C., Rosyth 0801/17 to BLACK SWAN) Will come under orders to C.in C., Portsmouth on entering Portsmouth Command (V.A.S. 1018/17 toS. 6.)

RUBIS — My 1427/16. Arrival Base should be between 0630 and 1900 (Capt. S. 9. 1047/17 to RUBIS)

Admty. 1833/7/7 — Greenock Area Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1600/17)

Third Submarine Patrol Area S.3. — Admty. 2137/16. Intend to establish a Third Patrol Area S.3. between 50° 5' N. and 49° 40' N., and between 0° and 1° W. (S. 5. 1648/17 re V.A.S)

WILK — Polish S/M. To leave Patrol for Base at 2100/19. Route to Gap A. (Capt. S. 3. 2147/17 to WILK)

British Air Activity

Plymouth — During night 16/17, 22 Barrage Balloons out of total 48 carried away and were lost including all Waterborne Balloons. Request urgent consideration to re-provision of defences for important Fleet Units now in Sound. (D. of L.D. 2233/17 to Air Ministry)

Air R/C — No Air R/C possible during night of for the present. (C. in C., Nore 0507/17 to C. in C., Rosuth)

/Rosyth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Rosyth

All Air Patrols, Air Searches, and convoy Escort postponed owing to low visibility (C. in C., Rosyth 0810/17)

Enemy Air Activity

Explosive Cylindrical Objects

R.A.F. North Weald reports that during night of 16/17 ten or twelve cylindrical objects attached to parachutes were dropped in their vicinity of which a few exploded with great force remainder have not exploded. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0858/17 to C. in C., Nore)

Ramsgate

My 1929/16. During Air Raid at 1900/16 2 unexploded bombs dropped in Outer Harbour and one in Inner Harbour. One of these exploded in Outer Harbour at 2015. No casualties. (V.A.Dover 0941/17 to Adty.) £100 damage to requisitioned property during Air-Raid. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1825/17)

Abuse of Red Cross

Master of SS FIREGLOW reports he saw Convoy F.N. 81 machine-gunned at 1030/15 by an enemy aircraft painted white with superimposed Red Cross. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1640/17 to C. in C., Rosyth)

CITY OF MOBILE Sunk 16/9.

R.N.O. Fleetwood reports 76 survivors landed from CITY OF MOBILE (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1840/17 to Adty.)

KALLIOP. S.

Proceed to assistance of Greek Steamer KALLIOPI.S. reported bombed and abandoned south of Tory Island at 0730/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2311/17 to MARAUDER)
Lowere accomodation port store in forward unable to repair making water hand pump manned. Sea 6 swell 6. (MARAUDER 0715/18)
Your 0715 Return to Oban. (F.O.i/c Greenock 0850/18 to MARAUDER)
Ashore in Sheephaven Bay still burning (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2227/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Clyde

River Clyde re-opened to Coastwise Vessels (F.O.I.C., Glasgow 0741/17)

SHARPSHOOTER

Your 2251/16 Request SHARPSHOOTER be sailed to Humber to work temporarily under F.O.I.C. Humber as LL pair ship to GOSSAMER. (C. in C., Nore 1101/17 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Closing of Adjacent Ports

May be advisable to clear one port at a time. Local Representatives of Ministry of Shipping are instructed to advise in such cases. (D.T.D. 1854/17)

New Type of Mine

Enemy appear to be using a new type of mine in Firth of Forth. On 16/9 an explosion apparently due to a mine occurred at 56° 07' N., 03° 01' W., Six yards astern of the wooden patrol boat SUNBEAM. SHARPSHOOTER carrying out LL trials was within about 1 mile of SUNBEAM. Today 17/9 similar explosion occurred in Methil Roads at 56° 10.25' N., 02° 57.5' W., within about 200 feet of SS AIGVALD who had just passed over position. Fortunately no serious damage was done to any M/V's. Explosion took place between SS AIGVALD and SS LORCA when SS AIGVALD was going full speed astern before anchoring. It would therefore appear that these mines are actuated by the movement of the propellors and it is suggested that ships entering and leaving Firth of Forth should be in open order. (C. in C., Rosyth 1857/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Humber

Red Mine exploded by LL Trawlers at 53° 47' 18" E. (F.O.Humber 2220/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Gironde on 11/9	Report of TAKU (TAKU 0505/17 to F.O.S)
Morlaix	Between 1450 and 1610/17. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1705/17)
Cherbourg Zeebrugge	At Noon /17. (P.I.U. 1750/17)
Boulogne Calais Dunkirk Zeebrugge	At 1240/17 (P.I.U. 1908/17) Reports received up to 1900/17 (D.D.I.C. 2000/17)
Helder Nordeney	At 1650/17 (2305/17)
4 Railway Guns Near Boulogne	On 17/9 (P.I.U. 2040/17)
Number of Enemy M/V's in Ports from Ems to Cherbourg	C. in C., Nore's 1644/13/9/40 to Admiralty Information is requested of total number of M/Vs of 1000 tons and above, it is considered are in ports from Delfziyl to Cherbourg. Observing that this stretch of coast line is about equal to that between Methil and London. I cannot make out from C.I.C. Reports, that the concentration of ships in these ports can conceivably be called vast. What number of M/Vs is it reckoned we have sunk on this coast since 7th September and what is now the average number R.A.F. sink each night. (C. in C., H.F. 1208/17 to Adty.)

Your 1208/17 by "In the Channel" I meant facing the English Coast, i.e. from Helder to the westward. Numbers in that area including barges are apparently over 1700. Vide daily summary for 16th September Annexe A. (C. in C., Nore, 1638/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

/It is.....

MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Your 1208/17. It is now estimated that the number of merchant ships of all sizes including small coasters in ports about Delfzyl and Cherbourg is about 150. Number of barges and small craft about 1500 to 2000. 9 merchant ships at sea are believed to have been sunk by R.A.F. since 7th September but results of the very heavy attacks on shipping in harbour and docks cannot be estimated with accuracy. (A.C.N.S. H. 1930/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

TURAKINA — British 9619 tons. There being no news or signs of wreckage, it must be considered possible that ship has passed into enemy hands. (S.O.I. Wellington 0050Z/17 to Admty)

UMGENI }
IROQUOIS }
In Convoy F N 82 — Aground on Leman Bank. (WINCHESTER 0130/17 to C. in C., Nore) Yarmouth sending two tugs. (C. in C., Nore, 0327/17 to WINCHESTER) Am proceeding with UMGENI and IROQUOIS who have been refloated. GRAIGLAS in company. Position 53° 6' N., 1° 43' E. (PINTAIL 0335/17 to C. in C., Nore) Tugs NORMAN and KROOMAN being sent (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0350/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
H.G. 44.	List (F.O.C.N.A. 1028/17)
W.N. 16.	Left 0650/17 (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 0910/17)
H.X. 76.	Route (D.T.D., 1540/17)
O.B.M. 216.	Time and escort (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0920/17)
O.B. 215.	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1425/17)
O.A. 212.	Route (N.C.S.O. Methil 0957/17) Escort (C. in C., W.A., 1603/17)
O.G. 43.	Request to sail 20/9 if possible. (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1543/17) Route (D.T.D. 1337/17)
O.L. 3.	Delayed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1100/17)
H.K. 68.	On time at R.V. (D.T.D. 1527/17)
C.E. 11.	Postponed 24 hours, weather. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1103/17, 1445/17)
O.A. 218.	Route. (D.T.D., 1335/17)
F.S. 84.	SWORDFISH and URSULA to join (C. in C., Rosyth 1127/17 amended 1516/17) Sailed (S. 6, 1541/17)
F.S. 82.	Reported Barrow Deep (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1255/17)
B.H.X.75.	Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1201/16)
S.C.3.B.	3 hours late at R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 1410/17)
E.N. 6.	List (N.C.S.O., Methil, 1604/17)
O.G. 43. H.G. 45. O.A. 216.	Escort arrangement (C. in C., W.A.1603/17)
W.N. 16.	CHANNEL FISHER joining (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 1500/17)
F.N. 84	14th A/S S.F. to join Aldeburgh as additional escort. (F.O., Harwich, 1700/17)

/H.X. 74..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping-Contd.**
H.X. 74.	Left, escort. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1801/17)
H.X. 70. B.	Arrived Barry. (N.O.I.C., Barry, 1600/17)
H.X. 70 A.	Arrived 1130/17. (N.C.S.O., Methil 1143/17)
O.B. 217.	Route (D.T.D., 1131/17)
S.L. 46.	Meet. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1220/17, 1440/17)
Convoy Columns	Large convoys should not exceed more than 5 ships in any one column. (D.T.D. 1223/16)
Sailing Telegrams	Asking if forecast can be improved, to lessen changes. (D.T.D., 1517/17 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
BOUVET	I III IV V Sailing postponed, weather. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1609/17)
EMPIRE BEAVER MYTILUS	To sail for Plymouth and Portsmouth (C. in C., W.A., 0103/17, F.O.I.C., Greenock 1140/17 EMPIRE BEAVER sailed (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1855/17) Degaussing of MYTILUS to be completed. EMPIRE BEAVER and escort to be diverted to Liverpool to await MYTILUS (C. in C., W.A., 2249/17)
VICTORIA REGINA	Re escort for Belfasy to I.O.M. Non-arrival of target I.O.M. holding up armament training R.A.F. personnel. (Airprod R.D.M.C., to Adty. 1515/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Casablanca Patrol-Contd.

My 0336 and your 0145/16. Submarine night patrol off Casablanca, in view of known presence of French submarines in this area and present bright moon consider this patrol impracticable. A Submarine patrol further south possibly off Cape Clancy might be of value. (F.O.C.N.A., 1030/17 to Admty.)

My 1030. TETRARCH not being sailed for the present. (F.O.C.N.A. 2110/17)

Watch on French Force

Your 0337/17 and F.O.C.N.A's 1030/17 you should establish a patrol to prevent French Forces from Toulon or North African ports in Mediterranean proceeding to Dakar.
A watch should be kept on Straits by light forces, and RENOWN and SCREEN should cruise in a position to westward or south westward of Straits to intercept if necessary.
My 2359/16 is cancelled. (V.C.N.S. 2348/17, to F.O. Force H.)

Force H.

Left Gib., 0345/17, S.O. Force H., in RENOWN, ENCL UNTER, WRESTLER, GRIFFIN, VIDETTE. (S.O. I., Gib., 0406/17)
FIREDRAKE and GALLANT sailed 0900 to join Force H. (S.O.I., Gib., 0942/17)

RUBIS

French M/L submarine. Should arrive Gib., between 0630 and 1900. (Captd. S. 9. to RUBIS, 1047/17)

SPHINX CANADA

French hospital ships. To be ready to sail 18/9 for Gibraltar and onward. Route. (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1604/17)

Destroyer Refits

Your 1258/11. Approved VELOX to be sailed with H.G. 44. (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.C.N.A., 2055/17)

Skuas, ARK ROYAL

Your 1558/15 to ARK ROYAL. One Squadron of Skuas will be retained (1st S.L. to S.O., Force H. 2117/17)

Tangier Cable

Cable service, Gibraltar-Tangier, began to work again 16/9. (D.S. 378)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CUMBERLAND — Expect to arrive Freetown Gate 1700 today (CUMBERLAND 0541/27)

DRAGON — Arrivals 0530/27. DRAGON with transports KENYA, KARANJA, SOBIESKI and ETTRICK; 0615/27 ESCAPADE. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0655/27)

DELHI
CORNWALL
CUMBERLAND — CORNWALL's 0800/26. DELHI amended time of arrival searched channel 1300 Z plus 1/27 (DELHI 0803/27)
Arrival 1430/27, DELHI; 1700 CORNWALL and CUMBERLAND, (S. O.I., Freetown, 1735N/27)

Overdue Ships — My 1145/B/23. and 1035B/25. ARABISTAN and THEMISTOCLES arrived Capetown. Ex Italian CALAMBRIA due Durban 23/9 from Colombo not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown 0925B/27)

ARGUS — Request investigation into date for R.V. (ARGUS, 0950Z/27)

French Sloops — Arrivals 0900/27 French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and escort vessels COMMANDANT DOMINE and COMMANDANT DUBOC escorting transports WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND Departure 1020/27. E CAPADE (S.O.I. Freetown, 1603N/27)

Arrival 1815, French armed trawler PRESIDENT HOUDUCE escorting OCEAN COAST, CASAMANO, ASHADYR, NEVADA and FORT LAMY (S.O.I., Freetown 1939/27)

French Aircraft — Two unidentified aircraft came over Freetown at 1630 27/9 at height of eight to ten thousand feet. Fire was opened on which one aircraft made off North and other south. Neither hit. Aircraft believed to be French No bombs dropped. (C. in C., S.A., 1747/27)

COMMISSAIRE RAMEL
TURAKINA — Master of British ship ESSEX reports at 0100 Z/20 in 029° 12' S., 073° 00' he received from COMMISSAIRE RAMEL a message R.RR gunned by enemy ship in position 028° 25' S., 074° 23' E., TURAKINA also used R.RR. on 22/8 and it appears likely that enemy ship was a warship whose hostile character would be unexcted. (S.O. (1) Capetown 2102/27)

MOST SECRET

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17.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" Contd.

Force H.

If no bombing of Gibraltar today intend returning 28/9. in which case relief Destroyers will not be required.
Consider indications are French will confine attack to the period when we are attacking them. (S.O., Force H., 0745/27)
My 0745/27. In view of N.A. Madrid's 2258/26 intend postponing return to Gibraltar.
Your 1652/26. Relief for destroyers should R.V. in 36.32 N., 08.12 W., at 0830/28.
(S.O. Force H., to F.O.C.N.A., 1844/27)

Alloy" and "Shrapnal" re Stowing

Commander 101 Brigade reports re W.O. telegrams 83098 and 83170 26/9. Force cannot sail for Alloy and Shrapnal without completely emptying ships and restowing. Quays do not exist at Freetown. Force has no beds for Troops and local Military authorities state extremely dangerous to sleep troops on ground in West Africa. In any case scale of tentage is insufficient for long stay. If Tentage and accommodation stores are landed it would take a week to reload them with facilities available at Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1937/27 to G.O.C., W. Africa)

French Policy

Radio Lyons states French Admty announced that as English Squadron has ceased to attack Dakar, reprisals on Gibraltar have been suspended. (D.D.I.C., 2215/27)

French N.A. last night showed me signal from French Admty. Instructing him to ask me to pass Official Message Admty. This was just before news received my 2258/26.
He would not leave signal with me but I made t the following translation which he approved.
(1) Admiral Gibraltar, confirming speech of Prime Minister, informed Admiral D'Harcourt on July 14th by Consular Channels that H.M. Govt. would not attack the French Fleet in any French or colonial port. This was violated at Dakar.

(2) H.M. Govt. has preferred to attack with her navy a French Colony not occupied in lieu of attacking Germany and so assumes a heavy responsibility.

(3) The policy of H.M.Govt. seeks to promote revolution in France and her colonies.

/(4).....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Joint Command

Messages addressed Admty. as from M.A. are to be understood as originating from joint naval and military command force employed in operation and intended for W.O. and any other department concerned. (F.O., Force H. 0731N/17)

French Africa

Situation Report No 17. (D.N.I., 2231/17)
Situation at Dakar (Brit. Consul, St. Vincent 2003/17)
Situation Report for D.M.I. (G.O.C., West Africa 0001/17)

North Atlantic

R.A.F. in France

N.C.S.O's 1224/13. Ship can probably be arranged. Can you confirm that the 65 British subjects will be ready for embarkation if a ship is diverted to Lisbon. (D.T.D., 0159/17 to Consul, Lisbon)

TRITON
TETRARCH

Propose sailing today to institute patrol off Casablanca during dark hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 0336/17)

Casablanca Patrol

Your 2359/16. RENOWN and four destroyers sailed 0330/17. Two additional destroyers sail at 0900/7. If interception of French ships leaving Casablanca is required, consider not practicable to establish effective surface patrol off that port for reasons given in my 1645/15.
Warning of departure at night might be obtained if TETRARCH and TRITON are used to establish inshore surface patrol described. This must involve risk to submarines.
Best prospect of achieving (? daylight) interception appears patrol in vicinity of Canary Islands if detachment of RENOWN and destroyers for use at distance from Gibraltar can be accepted. (S.O. Force H., 0337/17, to Admty.)

/My 0336.....

MOST SECRET

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CORNWALL DELHI DRAGON	Orders for patrol (C. in C., S.A., 0957/17) DRAGON sailed from Lagos 1300/17. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1853/17)
MORETON BAY	My 2225/24/8. Date to arrive Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1005/N/17)
POITIERS	(scuttled) asking for information Dakar from crew (1st S.L. to CUMBERLAND, 1033/17) Captain and all crew interrogated. Scanty information obtained, completely unreliable and obviously primed. Rumour PRIMAUGUET sailed 15/9 (CUMBERLAND, 1025N/17)
CALCHAS	Your 0639/16. CALCHAS arrived during daylight 10/9. (S.O.I., Capetown, to S.O.I., Singapore, 1115B/17)
French Ships	French Naval Attache states ships are at Dakar. (N.A.Madrid, 1248/17)
Freetown Arrivals	0602/17. arrival DEVONSHIRE with flag of S.O. Force M, AUSTRALIA, FURY and ECHO. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1301N/17)
German Unit	W/T transmission from German naval unit based 308° from Simonstown at 1226 zone/17 (C. in C., S.A., 1725/17)
French Policy	Unconfirmed report Vichy French naval action to retake arms and ammunition in Equatorial Africa is imminent. Details of troops. (69 Brigade to DELHI, 2004/17)
DOMINE	Spanish, 6914/ tons, Fernando Po to Las Palmas, intercepted S.W. of Dakar and ordered to Freetown under armed guard. (D.S. 378)
IDOMENEUS	My 1803/10. IDOMENEUS arrived at the Cape (S.O.I., Freetown, 0711/17, 1704/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

RORQUAL

Ordered to remain submerged until air raid over. (N.O.I.C., Malta 1601/17) Raid finished (N.O.I.C., Malta, 1615/17)

A.P. 1 and 2.

As attack on Egypt has commenced early arrival of A.P. 1 and A.P. 2. vitally important and dates given in your 1126/14 must be anticipated as much as possible and adequate escort through Red Sea provided. (1st S.L. to C. in C., E.I., etc. 1325/17) Route adjustments (C. in C., E.I., to YORK and AJAX 1856/17)

Coal for Turkey

C. in C., Med. 0005/25. No surplus stocks of coal on Mediterranean Station but coal could be supplied from U.K. provided Turkish authorities willing to carry it in one of their vessels or charter a neutral. (Hd. of M. to N.A., Angora, 1824/17)

AEGUS
Greek, Sunk.

Your 1650/16. Admty instructed ships to proceed from Gibraltar to Suez via Cape, 13/8. Ships left Gib. 15/8 for St. Vincent, C.V. No later information (S.O.I., Gibraltar 1650/17)

Malta
Air Raids

Air Intelligence Report up to 1800/17 All times local. 1040 to 1115, 3 formations of 12 JU. 87 B's plus 25 CR 42's divebombed Luqa Aerodrome. Engaged by 3 Hurricanes and 2 Gladiators plus AA fire. 2 J.U. 87 B's and 1 CR 42 were shot down by our fighters. 1 Wellington (mail aircraft) burnt out 1 Hanger hit by bomb and 1 U/S Hurricane awaiting engine partially destroyed. Some damage to aerodrome. Several unexploded bombs on aerodrome. casualties nil. 1534 to 1618, 2 formations of enemy aircraft flew over the Island. Our fighters up but no interception. Probably photographic reconnaissance. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1710/17, Governor Malta, 2319/17, N.O.I.C., Malta 2217/17)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterrancan-Contd.

Enemy Intelligence

Blenheim aircraft which reconnoitred N. Coast Libya 16/9 reports:
Benghazi, in harbour 1 destroyer 8 M.V's approaching harbour, 2 destroyers.
Derna, 2 M.V's.
No movements of shipping between Benghazi and Tobruk. (D.S. 379)

Derna Bombed

Aircraft of F.A.A. made successful bombing attack on shipping in Derna Harbour 17/9) (D.S. 379)

Operation

A.M. 2345/15. Subject to remarks by S.O. Force H. consider this project feasible, particularly if ship can be disguised as a warship and have good bow protection gear.
Request firm date of sailing from U.K. as desirable to concert this with other operations. (C. in C., Med., 0937/17)

East Indies

A.P. 3.

A.C.N.B., 1028/16. If CORNWALL escorts A.P. 3. to Aden and is not required for other escort duties estimated she could arrive Colombo (date) and escort these ships direct to Aden.
Alternatively one C. Class Cruiser or one A.M.C. could be made available for escort from Colombo to Bombay whence transport could sail with B.N. 8.
(C. in C., E.I., 1258/17)

B.N. 5½

COLOMBO and KANIMBLA will form Force R for B.N. 5½ and will escort convoy to logitude Aden. (C. in C., E.I., 15162/17)

Aden Raid

—

Gladiators 94 Sqdn. standing fighter patrol Aden 0420 to 1230. 1 S. 79 made bombing reconnaissance Aden 1140 12000 ft. 3 bombs dropped in harbour 1 bomb telegraph bay. Lorry slightly damaged, no casualties, 1 Gladiator intercepted and attacked, believed hit No casualties. All times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q., Aden 1759/17)

/Massawa.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.B.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Massawa Attacked

Night of 16-17, 3 Wellesleys 47 Sqdn & low level attack Massawa and Asmara. Direct hit aerodrom buildings Asmara. At 1730/17 G.M.T . 3 Wellesleys 223 Sqdn individual level attacks 1200 ft Asmara and Marsa Taclal l small fire started Asmara. 2 Wellesleys 14 Sqdn. individual low level attacks Massawa 2345, Hamil Island 2210 hours. No damage. Third Wellesley failed to locate Gura attempted attack Massawa. Attack abandoned owing heavy A/A fire and interception by fighters. Wellesley 223 Sqdn. Crew 2 failed to return. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1205/18)

Mombasa

S.A.A.F. reconnaissances El Wak Wel Garis and Mombasa areas, no enemy movements. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1206/18)

Troops for Mombasa

Your 2031/14, Proposal to embark military personnel and ammunition for Mombasa, approved. Request S.B.N.O. Suez Canal will instruct Commodore of Convoy accordingly. (C. in C., E.I., 1510Z/17 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

China

Dutch Submarines

Details of movements of Dutch submarines on escort duty. Present instructions to escort as far as 075° E., but Netherland C. in C., willing for these submarines to escort as far as African Coast, refuelling at Durban and escort suitable ships back to Batavia if desired. (C. in C., China to C. in C., E.I., 0945Z/17, amended 0252/18 and 0451Z/18)

America & West Indies

Troop Transport. U.S. Destroyer Escort

Your 1535/5, 1453/12 and 1217/16. In view of urgent need for transportation of Canadian troops to U.K. proposed they should embark as opportunity offers in fast liners and in EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA due Halifax 23/9 and LEOPOLDVILLE now at New York. Only vessels available for escort duty are ex-American Destroyers, and it is proposed that the troop sailings should be adjusted so that the Destroyers are not delayed.

/C.N.S.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Troop Transport, U.S. Destroyer Escort -Contd.

C.N.S. Ottawa requested:
To obtain views on these proposals, and propose convenient sailing dates.
(D.O.D. (F) 1631/17 to C.N.S. Ottawa)

Your 1631/17. Intend not to delay sailing of first group of American destroyers on this account. Am concerned over endurance of these ships with personnel unfamiliar with machinery, but experience of first group should be available before second group are ready to sail.(F.O. 3 B.S., 1835/17)

U.S. and Bermuda

Tel No 2007 from Ambassador Washington to F.O. Consider visit of aircraft tender and patrol planed to Bermuda in near future most desirable. Governor concurs. This would act as a set off against prompt delivery of destroyers and show that we are fully prepared to implement the agreement although we consider base proposals at Bermuda are excessive.
Any question of starting work on base must of course be deferred till final agreement is reached. (C. in C., Med. 1131/17)

Australia & New Zealand

TURAKINA
Possible capture

No further news or signs of wreckage Considered possible ship has passed into enemy hands. (S.O.I. Wellington 0050Z/17)

U.S. S.

Route (A.C.N.B. 0745Z/17)
Crew number left behind from ships in U.S.S. (Chinese and Javanese, etc.)
(A.C.N.B., 0954/17)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

WINNETOO	Arrived Kobe 29/8. Appearance. Ship appears to have been in company with Tasman Sea raider from at least 9/5 till early August. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 07312/17).
ELSE ESSBERGER KULMERLAND ANNALIESE ESSBERGER	At Kobe, recently dry-docked and carried out trial runs. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 07312/17).
MUNSTERLAND	At Kobe, alongside, general repairs (Capt. O.S. Singapore 07312/17).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TORCELLO	Arrived Varna 15/9 from Batum with 5,000 tons petroleum. (O.S.379).

MOST SECRET.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CROWN ARUN

British, 2372 tons. (attacked 16/9). Ship torpedoed in 58.03.N. 14.20 W. reliable fix, time unknown. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1037/17). No sign of wreckage or survivors. (WINCHELSEA 1040/17). Am proceeding position given in your 1017 (?1037) (WINCHELSEA 1205/17) Proceed 58.03. N. 14.20 W. Ship torpedoed bottom up, 2 lifeboats full. Report name of ship and possibility of salvage. (C.-in-C., W.A. to WINCHELSEA, 1213/17). Your 1213. Capsized ship is about 2,000 tons, loaded timber, part floated away. Consider salvage possible when weather improves. (WINCHELSEA, 1455/17). My 1213. Course and speed lifeboats 090° 3 Kts. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1527/17). Cancel my 1213. Attack S/m in 58.21. N. 15.45 W. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1647/17). If not in contact at dark, rejoin convoy (C.-in-C., W.A.1709/17). Your 1647 and 1709. Survivors not found, not possible to find name of ship. Wreck waterlogged and sinking slowly, position 58.07. N. 14.18W. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1932/17). (see 18/9).

TEGGINA

Ship torpedoed and sunk, 58.21.N. 15.45 W. at 1530. (15 Group to Admty. 1646/17). WINCHELSEA ordered to position (C.-in-C., W.A.1647/17). (O.S.379). Following received addressed 15 Group from Aldergrove. Following received by O/224 Squadron by V/S from FLEETWOOD, HX 71. Pass to C.-in-C., W.A. My 1530/17. Ship's name TEGGINA, all survivors picked up, ends 0930. (C.-in-C., W.A.1410/18).

HIRD
(torpedoed 15/9)

R.N.O. Fleetwood reports 30 survivors landed from Norwegian steamer HIRD torpedoed 15/9., 58.00. N. 12.20. W. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 16 5/17).

CITY OF BENARES

British, 11,081 tons, distress signal, torpedoed 56 43' N. 21 15 W. (Lyness 2206/17). HURRICANE to assist. (C.-in-C., W.A.2329/17). Coastguard, Port Patrick, intercept at 2207 G.M.T. give position 56.48. N. 21.15 W. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 2330/17). Had been in Convoy OB213 (O.S.379). 18 Women, 15 Children, 46 men, 36 lascars saved from MARINA and CITY OF BENARES. Boats of latter rushed by lascars and capsized. 2 further children died in

 MOST SECRET.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

CITY OF BENARES (contd).	HURRICANE. Commodore of Convoy and Captain missing. (HURRICANE 2230/18).
MARINA	Distress signal, violent explosion. 56.43 N. 21.15.W. (MARINA 2212/17). Coastguard, Port Patrik, report intercept at 2214 G.M.T. the MARINA 56.43.N. 21.15.W. violent explosion. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2324/17). Numbers saved. One boat still missing under sail. (HURRICANE 2230/18).
AURIS	(Reported sunk by S/m gunfire on 9/9). Has arrived at Gibraltar without apparently having sustained any damage. (O.S.378).
MAAS (tropedoed 11/9)	Dutch, 1,966 tons. Now known to have sunk. Traced only 2 survivors. (O.S.378).

Submarines Reported.

1631	Enemy S/m 58.21.N. 15.45.W. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1631/17). WINCHELSEA to attack (C.-in-C., W.A., 1647/17). If not in contact at dark, reform convoy.(C.-in-C., W.A., 1709/17 to WINCHELSEA, etc.)
2308	A.F. Message 56.43.N. 21.15.W. at 2208 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 2355/17).
, Estimated U-Boat Dispositions.	Italian - possibly 3 between Azores and Spain or farther South, but no news of them. German - 1 probably still far out in Atlantic W. of 20° W. possibly between 57° N. and 59 N. 2 in N.W. Approaches, of which 1 was in 58° 42' N. 15° 22' W. at 2318/16, and the other may possibly have been in about 55° 30' N. 10° 30' W. at 1715/16. 1 was in 59° 57' N. 05° 07' W. at 1927/16, outward bound. 1 between Orkneys and Faroes, homeward bound. 1310/17).

S/ms. attacked.

1530	A/C reported that H.M.S. BLUEBELL attacked U-boat which sank a ship in Convoy HX71 at 1530/17 58.21. N.15.45.W. with depth charges. No visible result. (D.S.379).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Patrols

Four destroyers from Portsmouth last night carried out anti-invasion patrol in the Eastern part of the Channel.
No enemy were sighted.
Three destroyers from Sheerness last night carried out patrol off Gap E.

Submarine Patrols in Channel

A fourth submarine patrol area is to be established in the Channel.

U-Boat destroyed

A.C.C.S. reported today that there is little doubt that the U-Boat attacked by Swordfish of the F.A.A. off Cape Wrath on 14/9 was destroyed.

PRETORIA CASTLE

Sailed today from Greenock for Freetown on completion of refit.

British Air Operations

Attacks on enemy invasion bases were continued last night. Barges and shipping at Ostend, Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk, Zeebrugge, Flushing, Terneuzen and Antwerp were successfully attacked. Gun positions in the Cape Gris Nez area were also bombed.

SUSSEX

Enemy Air Operations

H.E. bombs fell at York Hill Docks at Glasgow at 0240, damaging sheds.
SUSSEX was hit and set on fire: Magazines near the fire could not be at first be flooded on account of the damage, and the ship had to be abandoned. The fire is being fought with harbour and shore appliances.

Civil damage was caused last night at Greenwich, Woolwich (Siemen's Works) and Liverpool. Fires were in progress at Millwall Dock, East India Dock At Deptford all fires were extinguished -by 1155 and damage was slight.

/Two more.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Two more ships, NORMAN QUEEN (957 tons) and EASTWOOD (1551 tons) have to be added to the list of those seriously damaged by bombs in the London Docks 7/9 and 9/9.

Slight damage was done to an Admiralty Oil tank at Port Victoria, Sheerness today.

Convoy C.H. 11 was unsuccessfully attacked off the Sussex Coast p.m. today.

Tilbury was attacked twice today; and property and utility services were damaged.

46 enemy aircraft were destroyed by our fighters today, plus 16 probable and 19 damaged. Our casualties were 12 aircraft but 9 pilots safe.

Mining

Enemy aircraft minelaying last night is suspected off Southwold and Foreness and in the Thames Estuary. Owing to suspected mining in the river all movements of shipping between Dagenham and Greenhithe were stopped this morning for a short time.

The Clyde was closed above Shieldhall early this morning until 1430/18.

8 Aircraft successfully laid mines in the Lorient area last night and 4 Swordfish in the Schouwen Island Area.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

French Forces

Force H is establishing a patrol to prevent French forces from Toulon or North African ports in the Mediterranean proceeding to Dakar. Such forces may proceed to Casablanca provided they give an assurance that they will not go south of that port.
A watch is being kept on the Straits by light forces, with RENOWN and screen cruising to the westward or south westward. CUMBERLAND is patrolling south of Dakar. AUSTRALIA left Freetown this evening to relieve her on patrol.

One of CORNWALL's Walrus aircraft at 0830Z today sighted a cruiser of PRIMAUGUET class and a submarine submerged, about 60 miles south of Tabu, steering east. It is believed that the aircraft was not sighted by the French. CORNWALL is shadowing.

DRAGON was ordered at 2035 to return to Freetown to refuel and join Force M.

Operation "Menace"

Commanders of Force M represented (1642H/16) that the arrival of French cruisers at Dakar does not alter materially the previous naval situation At a meeting on 16/9 General de Gaulle stressed the necessity for early action at Dakar, regarding any considerable effect upon local morale by arrival of cruisers unlikely. He is advised that substantial support for him is likely in Dakar if agents are sent to foster it. He proposes that original plan to enter harbour unopposed should go forward, but that if this fails Free French troops should attempt landing at Rufisque, supported by naval and air action if necessary and thence advance on Dakar. The British Commanders afterwards expressed the view that the risks had not sufficiently increased to justify abandoning the enterprise. They recommended acceptance of de Gaulle's new proposal, and that, should he fail, British troops should be landed to instal him as previously contemplated. They have been given full authority to go ahead and do what they consider to be best, in order to give effect to the original purpose of the expedition.

MOST SECRET

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18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

During the bombardment of Bardia last night KENT was attacked by two torpedo aircraft at 2355 and was hit and extensively damaged. She was unable to proceed under her own power, owing to her rudder being jammed, and was taken in tow by NUBIAN by 0300, but entered Alexandria under her own power.

LADYBIRD last night carried out a bombardment of the Escarpment Road at Bolium at close range. JUNO and JANUS attacked enemy concentrations at Sidi Barrani. Both these bombardments are believed to have had considerable success.

East Indies

Air Raid on Aden

One aircraft dropped 3 bombs in Aden harbour and one in Telegraph Bay at 1140 today. There were no casualties and damage was negligible.

Two Blenheims attacked Assab water front today, but results were not observed.

Dutch Submarines to be used for Escort

The Netherlands Govt. have agreed to h the use of Dutch submarines by the C. in C., Dutch East Indies for escort duties in the Indian Ocean.

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

18.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

British aircraft objectives. C.-in-C., Nore's 0920/14. Fully agree that M/vs. should be attacked in preference to barges, and suggest that ships at Cherbourg should be heavily attacked tonight. (Hofor 1010/18 to Admty).

Burning oil as invasion defence. Your 1113/17. A copy of this report is being sent to you. It is intended to instal this form of defence in suitable Ports in your Command where large stocks of oil are immediately available. (D. of L.D. 1250/18 to C.-in-C., Rosyth).

Lowestoft. Notice for steam. Admiralty's 1655/4. N.O.I.C. Lowestoft represents that keeping six vessels at one hour's notice to proceed south and necessity of detaching four vessels to lay obstructions presents difficulties in maintaining full strength of patrols as vessels can only leave Lowestoft close to high water. The six vessels at one hour's notice are obliged to remain in Rds. Lack of sufficient rest periods is becoming avident. Request permission for six ships to be at six hours' notice. (C.-in-C., Nore 2355/18 to Admy).

2 pounder on roof of Admty. Admty. 1516/17. Operational control and telephone. (Dacoast Four 1235/18 to Antacor).

Field Army. Following state of readiness to be maintained by all Troops of Field Army as from 1200/19 (Hofor 2215/18).

Policy.

Campbeltown or Lamlash. Admty's 1815/15 and F.O.I.C. Greenock's 2307/16. Concur with F.O.I.C. Greenock that Lamlash should be defended in preference to Campbeltown. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1207/18 to Admty).

Suspected new type of Mine. (See C.-in-C., Rosyth's 1857/17). Owing to suspected new type of mine, cruisers and above when entering or leaving harbour are to be in open order, and destroyers and below at least 3 cables apart.

(C.-in-C., Nore 1735/18).

Your/

War Diary.

MOST SECRET

18.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy.

Your 1857/17. Concur in your suggestion. C.-in-C., H.F. has given orders for Home Fleet in his 0959/18. As M/vs. are seldom in close order no other action seems necessary till more is known about the new mine. (D.M.S. 2202/18 to C.-in-C., Rosyth).

M/L Flotillas and Base Staffs. — Cancel A.M.1718/31. Following is intended disposition of M/L Flotillas and Base Staffs. (D.A/S.W. 1824/18).

Portsmouth Striking Forces. — Destroyers based at Portsmouth and vessels not on patrol at immediate notice for steam during dark hours have been organised into 15 Striking Forces as follows (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1903/18).

Movements.

CALIFORNIA — C.-in-C., W.A.1327/17. Request immediate instructions. Now cruising outside Isle of Wight. (CALIFORNIA 0425/18).

CALIFORNIA — Your 0425/18. Proceed into harbour through Eastern Channel, berth at 49 berth Southampton not before 1000. Tugs have been arranged. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 0637/18).

CALIFORNIA's 0425/18. Request explanation of the circumstances necessitating this signal. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1248/18 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth).

WORCESTERSHIRE
FORFAR — Leave Belfast 1200/19.
Leave Clyde 1330/19.
for patrol (F.O.C.N.P. 0942/18).

VETERAN — To sail for Harwich a.m./19th. (C.-in-C., Nore 1001/18).

VERSATILE — Your 0190. Return to Aberdeen with LADY OF MAN and report her expected time of sailing (R.A.(D) H.F. 1030/18).

ASPHODEL — Returned to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1047/18).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET

18.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Nore Command.	Day patrols and anticipated movements to 1200/19. (C.-in-C., Nore 1200/18)
"Town" Class Destroyers.	On arrival of 1st Flotilla of town class destroyers they are to join command of C.-in-C., W.A. and form part of 17th D.F. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1311/18).
"H" Class Destroyers. "CHAIN"	Proceeding to Liverpool. Request fighter protection. Code word CHAIN. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1357/18). Intend to sail D.9. in HAVELOCK with HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HIGHLANDER 1915/18 for Liverpool (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1417/18). (?1407/18 intended). My 1417/18. Delete D.9 in HAVELOCK. HAVELOCK will be sailed in company with WITHERINGTON and BLYSKAWICA to arrive Plymouth 0730 (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1613/18). My 1357/18. Cancel cover requested for 19/9 (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1916/18 to H.Q.F.C.) Capt. D.9 position course and speed (Capt. D.9 2020/18).
Portsmouth Command.	Night movement signal 18/19 (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1407/18, 1747/18).
LAURENTIC	Berthing postponed 24 hours owing to weather conditions. Ship will be ready for sea p.m./23rd. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1430/18).
PRETORIA CASTLE	Sailed in accordance with F.O.C.N.P's 2222/16. Expect to arrive Freetown (date). (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1443/18).
Orkneys.	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/18).
Dover Patrols.	Night 18/19th. (V.A. Dover 1546/18). Arrived 1615 WANDERER WITCH. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1715/18).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland. Regulations restricting movements of vessels after dark. (N.O.I.C., Iceland 1230/18 and 1235/18 to Admty).

NORDHAPP arrived Stornoway 1210/18 owing to stress of weather (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1623/18 to Admty).

Patrol T. 3 Destroyers of 16th D.F. will carry out patrol and keep look-out for Enemy Minesweepers approaching or leaving mine barrier. (C.-in-C., Nore 1505 and 1507/18.

Channel Patrol. VANOC, VISCOUNT, VOLUNTEER, STURDY patrol Eastward tonight to Lydd. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1657/18 to Admty).

Flushing. One unit of 70 ft. M.T.Bs. to operate close off-shore between Flushing and Nieuport, leaving harbour as requisite and being well clear of Coast by daylight to destroy enemy surface craft. (C.-in-C., Nore 1724/18 to BEEHIVE). Cancel my 1724. Weather unsuitable. (C.-in-C., Nore 2051/18 to BEEHIVE).

9th D.F. 2 M/vs. of 2,000 to 3,000 tons raported in 48° 44' N. 4° 28' W. at 0605, steering 070° at 9 Kts. Request you order 9 D.F. to endeavour to destroy. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1833/18 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth).

Submarines.

H.43 It will not be possible to relieve you before 21st. (Capt. S.5 1420/18 to H.43).

Channel Patrols. Following 4 patrol areas have been established in Channel. Length of patrol 6 days. Object to report at once and attack afterwards any enemy shipping bound across Channel, and to attack coastwise shipping if important enough to justify compromising Patrol. Orders and movements. (Capt. S.5. 1426/18 to URSULA, SWORDFISH).

Intend/

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

Channel Patrols (contd). Intend establishing a fourth patrol area X.5 between 50° 15' N. 50° N. 2° W. and 3° W. (S.S. 1429/18 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth).

Admty. 1833/7/7. Greenock Area Movements. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1640/18).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/19. (V.A.S. 1722/18).

British Air Activity.

Air Attacks. On ships and barges in Dutch and Belgian Ports on 17/9. (Bomber Command Intelligence Summary No.430). On night 17/18th. (B.C. Summary No.431 and 432).

Patrols W.1 and W.2 Cancelled owing to weather. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 0600/18).

Balloons for Belfast. (R.A.M.L. 1230/18 to Admty).

Fighter Protection. Requested for 1 M/v from 1000/18 to 1700/19, Avonmouth to Falmouth. Code word GAMMA. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1251/18 and 1339/18 to H.Q.F.C.) Requested for 4 destroyers, Needles to Liverpool, 1900/18 till dark and daylight till arrival 19/9. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1357/18 to H.Q.F.C.).

Balloon Command Operations Report as at 0700/18. (H.Q. B.C. 1300/18).

Helder. Intended attack on shipping by bombs and torpedoes during night 18/19th. (H.Q.C.C. 1506/18 to 16 Group).

Rosyth Area. Air searches for 19/9. (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 1938/18).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

18.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Parachute mines dropped inland. 2 mines, 8 ft. by 2 ft, dropped, one in Swanley Village and one ½ mile West of Chelsfield; at about 2245/17. (C.-in-C., Nore 0046/18 th Admty). Magnetic mines about 8 ft. by 2 ft., with parachutes, dropped at Kidbrooke, Chislehurst and Orpington. Bomb Disposal Officer investigating. (F.O.I.C. London 0240/18 to Vernon).

SUSSEX. Damaged by bomb. Serious fire. Unable flood magazines owing to damage. Abandoned ship. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow 0317/18 to Admty). Magazines near damage have been flooded. Fire fighting continues. (FO.I.C, Glasgow 0514/18). Fire is probably in an oil fuel tank near after engine-room. Ship is berthed West side of Yorkhill Basin. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0701/18). Situation grave. Ship listing heavily. Heavy smoke (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1044/18). Fire decreasing slowly. Risk of capsizing or sinking has dinimished somewhat. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1315/18). Fire well in hand. Ship aground aft at high water, quarterdeck awash. Intend flood thoroughly all after part. Removal of top weight proceeding to improve stability. (F.O.C. Glasgow 1715/17). Danger of total destruction by fire and risk of sinking or capsizing now considered abated. Fire steadily decreasing (F.O.I.C., Glasgow 1950/18). List improved and fire under control (F.O.I.C., Glasgow 2150/18). Fire considered extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0951/19).

Deptford. 5 incendiary bombs dropped in raids during night 17/18th. Damage slight.
(Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford 1155/18 to Admty).

Convoy F.N. Help Convoy F.N. (A/c 500 Sqdn. 1644/18 to R.A.F. Chatham).

ASKA Survivors landed Northern Ireland P.M./16th deal with as follows. (D.O.I.C. Belfast 1700/18).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Sheerness.	Details of damage in air-raid.18/9. (O.C.W. Sheerness 1800/18 to C.E.-in-C). (C.-in-C., Nore 2337/18 to Admty).
Apparatus for feigning damage.	Found in enemy aircraft crashed at Shoreham 15/9. Description. (Air Ministry A.I.1.G. 1915/18).
Clyde.	River Clyde closed above Shieldhall (F.O.I.C., Glasgow 0655/18). River Clyde re-opened without restrictions. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow 1430/18).
Thames.	Owing to suspected mining, all movements of shipping are to cease between Dagenham and Greenhithe until further orders. (F.O.I.C., London 1007/18). Traffic may now be released. (F.O.I.C. London 1154/18).
Tyne.	An unexplained explosion occurred at 0248/18 about 015° one mile of the South Gave Light. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1048/18 to Admy).
Orford Ness.	Magnetic mine exploded 1 cable on quarter of WIVERN at 1 cable 080 from 54A. buoy at 0720/18. No apparent damage to ship. Subsequent search by L.L. trawlers produced negative result. (C.-in-C., Nore, 1155/18 to Admty. and F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1537/18 to C.-in-C., Nore).
Operation P.R.	(2 Corvettes with 3 Destroyers of 16th D.F. in support to lay R. mines at entrance to Oost Gat to incommode shipping at Flushing). Will be carried out on night 22/23rd Sept. Route. F.O.I.C., Harwich requested to issue orders. (C.-in-C., Nore, 1220/18 to FO.I.C., Harwich).
Orkneys.	British mines have been dealt with as follows from 13/9 to 17/9. (A.C.O.S. 1803/18 to Admty).
Mine Barrier.	Destroyers on Brown Ridge Patrol tonight have been ordered to look out for Enemy Minesweepers approaching or leaving mine barrier. (F.O. S/Ms. 1831/18).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

18.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.42. Your 1151/13. Would Destroyer Escort be available Port ZA early a.m./21. (R.A.M.L. 2248/18 to C.-in-C., H.F.)

Faroes. Minesweepers cannot be spared at present. It is not intended to route ships North of Faroes, as this would indicate that mines have not been laid there. (D.M.S. 2251/18 to N.O.I.C., Faroes).

Parachute Mines dropped inland. See Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy Intelligence.

Dutch, Belgian and French Ports. My 1748/17 and 2000/17. Reports of R/c received up to 2359/17. (D.D.I.C. 0325/18).
R/c on 17/9. (Bomber Command Intelligence Summary No.430).
Night 17/18. (B.C. Summary No.431).
Reports received up to 2359/18. (B.C. Summary No.432).

Zeebrugge. A/c report on 18/9. (Chatham A.T.H.Q. 0255/18).

Cherbourg. A/c report on 18/9. (P.R.U. ST. EVAL 1520/18).

Channel Approaches. Following from C.-in-C., W.A. 2 M/vs. of 2,000 to 3,000 tons reported in 48° 44' N. 4° 28' W. at 1605, steering 070° at 9 Kts. 9th D.F. endeavour to destroy. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1906/18 to Capt. D.9).

BISMARCK At 0150/18 had apparently been moved and was lying at a buoy further up the Kuhwarde Hafen at Hamburg. (H.Q.B.C. 0317/19).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

18.9.40.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

HELVELLYN.	Grounded on Lady Isles off Troon at 0200/17. Floated next tide and towed to Ardrossan. Holed fore and aft. If weather permits will be towed to Greenock for slipping. (N.O.I.C., Ardrossan 1045/18 to Admty).
BRITISH RENOWN	My 1114/14. Arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 1005B/18).
PORT MONTREAL	My 1038/17. Arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 1005B/18).
BENAVON	Due Durban 14/9 from Penang. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1005B/18).
AUSTRALIND	My 1035/17. Arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 1145B/18).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
S.L.S. 46.	GARLAND to join additional escort (C. in C., W.A., 0819/18)
O.B. 215.	Air Report 54.22 N., 05.09 W., at 0809. Take Clyde portion to meet O.B. 215. (C. in C., W.A., 0920/18)
C.E. 11.	My 1103/17. Intend to sail at 1400 today. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1033/18)
O.A. 215.	Consists of 1 merchant ship only. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1300/18)
F.N. 84.	14th A/S S.F. to join as additional escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1115/18)
O.G. 43.	Re sailing NEURALIA and PULASKI with troops to Gibraltar. Additional A/S escort will be available. (C. in C., W.A., 1523/18) My 1936/15. only NEURALIA will now sail in O.G. 43. (D.O.D. (H) 1732/18) Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1830/18) Escort 2 destroyers etc., (C. in C., W.A., 1527/18)
O.L. 3.	Cancel my 1734/16 and 1100/17. Request fighter protection for O.L. 3. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 2325/18)
H.X. 71.A.	CAMPANULA (C. in C., W.A., 1249/18)
H.X. 74.	Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1103/18)
O.G.N. 43.	H.M.T. LEEDS UNITED 20 (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1725/18)
O.A. 214.	Clyde portion arrived. (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1058/18)
S.C. 3.	Clyde portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1059/18)
O.A. 217.	Route (N.C.S.O. Methil 1051/18)
O.A. 216.	List; number and escort, (N.C.S.O. Methil 0815/18, 0816/18)
H.X. 75.	Advance sailing telegram (S.O.N.O., Halifax, 1502/17 recd. 0946/18)
S.L. 48.	MALOJA to escort (C. in C., W.A., 1351N/18)

/Sailing telegrams...

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Sailing telegrams — Reply to Admty. 1517/17 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1546/18)

HELVELLYN — To sail for Greenock p.m./19 in tow of SUPERMAN (N.C.I.C. Ardrossan 1655/18)

AYLA BANK — Ready to sail for Scapa p.m./18 If no escort, to sail with W.N. 17 on 21/9 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1247/18)

EMPIRE TROOPER — Sailing Tyne for Liverpool. No escort (C. in C., Rosyth, 1541/18. (C. in C., H.F., 1929/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and French Naval Force

Early Action Advised

Admty. 2358/16. At meeting today de Gaulle insisted on necessity for early action at Dakar. Is advised of substantial support in Dakar. Now proposes original plan to enter harbour, etc. After consideration we are of opinion that presence of these three French cruisers has not sufficiently increased risks to justify abandonment of enterprise. Accordingly recommend acceptance of de Gaulle's new proposal and that, should he fail, landing of British troops be undertaken to instal him as previously contemplated. Operation could be carried out 4 days after decision of H.M.G. (S.O., Force M., to Admty., 0038,0039,0046/18) Message for C.I.G.S. War Offices from Major Gen. Irwin, advising acceptance of risks. (S.O.Force M., 0448/18)

Authority to act

For M.A. from H.M.G. Give you full authority to go ahead and do what you think best in order to give effect to original purpose of expedition. (1st S.L. to S.O. Force M., 1320/18)

French Attitude

French N.A. told N.A. that H.M.G., should not take French reply too seriously and hoped our answer would be "H.M.G. appreciate reasons for French Govt. reply but regret they must reserve their right to go within 20' of coast. Prosecution of war alone made this necessary. H.M.G. affirms not contemplating and will not make any gratuitous attack on French warships" (Sire S. Hoare, Madrid to F.O. 1310/18)

French Cruiser

Instructions contained in latter half of your 3117/15 are to be carried out subject to the following:-
(A) message from General de Gaulle contained in S.O. Force M's 1012/14 should be communicated to cruiser if de Gaulle agrees.
(B) If de Gaulle concurs it should be pointed out the very favourable rates of pay and conditions of service if they join Free French Forces.
(C) You must in consultation with S.O. Force M. decide how to deal with conflicting claims of making CORNWALL available for "Menace" and making certain the cruiser returns to Casablanca. (1st S.L. to C. in C., S.A. 1355/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" , and French Naval Force, Contd.

French Force

Your 2003. Aircraft report one cruiser and one submarine submerged in position 03.16 N., 07.16 W., at 0830 Z, approx. time course 090°. Intend shadowing by aircraft keeping 35 miles to eastwards. (CORNWALL, 0841Z/18 to C. in C., S.A.) My 0841Z. Amend course to 100° aircraft believed not seen. French cruiser PRIMAUGUET class. (CORNWALL, 1007Z/18) Your 0841/18. Shadow only. Instructions follow. (1st S.L. to CORNWALL, 1336/18)

French cruiser PRIMAUGUET position 1300Z, 03° 00' N., 06°24' W., 104°, 12½ knots. Am maintaining position 35 miles ahead. (CORNWALL, 1329/18) My 2003/17 Amend R.V. to 0700/19 in position 02° 15' N., 01° 50'W., unless otherwise ordered. (C. in C., S.A., to CORNWALL, 1339/M/18)

AUSTRALIA
CUMBERLAND

AUSTRALIA to sail 1900/18 to relieve CUMBERLAND on patrol. CUMBERLAND TO return Freetown to fuel. (S.O.Force M 1340/18) Your 1340. Position at 0600, 11° 00' N., 17° 30' W., course 145° speed 25 knots to 115° at 1020 (CUMBERLAND to Force M., 1649M/18)

Plans to Intercept

138. Your 1356/18 and your 0145/16. (b) Consider interception more likely to be achieved if RENOWN is stationed at Gibraltar.
Should French not answer signals and refuse to stop I intend to fire warning shots ahead and if not complied with to engage.
Assume importance of preventing French ships reaching Dakar justifies (a) engaging equal or superior force,
(b) Night action.
To obtain a valid assurance as to destination I consider an officer must be sebt on board senior French ship.
(S.O. Force H., 1610/18 to Adty.)

/PRIMAUGUET.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and
French Naval Force, Contd.

PRIMAUGUET

C. in C., S.A., 1339Z/18. Amend R.V. to 0800Z/19 in 01° 58' N., 01°31' W Approach if possible on course 250. PRIMAUGUET 1800Z position 02° 49' N., 04° 41' W., course 105° making good 12½ knots. (CORNWALL to DELHI and DRAGON, 2016Z/18)

My 2003/17. DRAGON to refuel Freetown and join Force H keeping clear of PRIMAUGUET on passage (C. in C., S.A., to DRAGON, 2035/18)

Admty. 1355/18. Act in accordance with (a) but not (b) of that message. If matter is satisfactorily arranged and if PRIMAUGUET agrees to proceed North CORNWALL and DELHI are to continue to shadow French ships on passage to Casablanca, DELHI proceeding refuel at Freetown, when in neighbourhood. DRAGON will not now be available, reference my 2035/18. Text of message referred to at (a) in Admty. 1355/18 will be signalled separately, namely report of attitude of French and if any likelihood of joining de Gaulle Force. (C. in C., S.A. 2119/18 to CORNWALL)

Your 0841Z/18. If the French cruiser is accompanied by a submarine, one of "D" class should communicate with her whilst CORNWALL keeps under way at high speed. If submarine attacks any of our ships, the French cruiser is to be engaged until she hauls down her colours or is sunk. (1st S.L., to CORNWALL, 2155/18)

Force "H"

Your 1610/18. A force at Gibraltar can only intercept French forces coming from Mediterranean by getting early news of their approach. It is not clear how you propose to do this, particularly if they sail from Oran. (1st S.L. to S.O. Force H., 2208/18)

Your 2209/18..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and French Naval Forces-Contd.

Force "H" Contd.

Your 2208/18. By air and surface reconnaissance with destroyers trawlers and yachts to eastwards Gibraltar, and keeping ships at immediate notice to slip and proceed during night.
During next 5 days of moonlight consider this gives better prospect of locating, shadowing and communicating with French than by keeping RENOWN in relatively restricted area to westwards.
Latter may invite submarine attack and employs destroyers uneconomically.
(S.O. Force H., 0025/19)

Dakar morale

Never any question of giving up "Menace" on account of the added Naval strength at Dakar. It was considered that the whole morale of the place and atmosphere would have been changed. Glad if you would make this quite clear to General Spears. (1st S.L. 1829/18 to C.S.L.)

Military Convoy

Cancel my 1947/14 (Military Force to sail in O.G. 43) Further signal re reinforcements will be made. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O. Force H., 1830/18)

Strength Mytem

Situation report No. 18 (D.N.I. to Force H., etc., 1942/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Force — Your 2348/17. Are French to be allowed to proceed if they state destination is Casablanca. Have not received your 1400/16, referred to in your 2355/16. Has Operation "Menace" been postponed or abandoned. (S. O. Force H., 0325/18 to Admty)
Your 0325/18. Provided French forces give an assurance that they will not proceed south of Casablanca, they should be allowed to proceed to that port. Operation "Menace" will probably be carried out (date) (1st. S.L., to F.O., Force H., 1356/18)

TRITON
TETRARCH — F.O.C.N.A's 1030/17. Consider these submarines would be better employed in Mediterranean. (C. in C., Med., 0937/R)

South Atlantic

DELHI — Fuel remaining- reply to his 2003/17 (DELHI to C. in C., S.A., 0223/18)

AUSTRALIND
BRITISH RENOWN
PORT MONTREAL
BENAVON — Overdue shipping. My 1035/17. AUSTRALIND arrived Capetown (S.O.I Capetown, 1145B/18) My 1114/14 and 1035/17. BRITISH RENOWN and PORT MONTREAL arrived Capetown. BENAVON due Durban 14/9 from Pending not arrived (S.O.I. Capetown, 1005B/18)

N/A

PRETORIA CASTLE — Sails Clyde 1400/18 to Freetown, 17 knots (15 group 1047/18)

Gunfire Report — For your information, following from TRALIA via St. Helena (begins) Gunfire heard position 019° 20'S008° 54' W., time of origin 1300/14. (ends) British ship TASMANIA was also in this vicinity. Please inform me of arrivals of these ships at their destinations in your area. (S.O.I. Freetown 1844/18 to S.O.I. Kingston)

MALOJA — To act as ocean escort to S.L. 48 (C. in C., S.A., 1351N/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

KENT Damaged

KENT mined ~~and~~ torpedoed N.E. of Bardia. Extensive damage under Y turret. 3 shafts in action but rudder jammed. NUBIAN and MOHAWK in company. V.A.L.F. with Force as my 1357/15. also JUNO and JANUS proceeding to her assistance. (C. in C., Med., 0031/18)

My 1145/17 and 0131/18. Bombardments carried out ~~unattended (?)~~ except by KENT. KENT is tow of NUBIAN by 0300 making good 5 knots steering E. V.A.L.F. now in company. (C. in C., Med, 1143/18)

KENT attacked by 2 torpedo aircraft at 2355/17 during combing attack in bright moonlight. One hit in each Y turret starboard side causing extensive damage. NUBIAN ordered to take in tow noon position. Torpedo pistol suspected magnetic. Oil fires not yet extinguished So far as known 2 officers killed including Comdr. Foster-Hall and 30 ratings. (C. in C., Med., 1457/18)

French Ships Sunk

French Admty. announce sinking of 2 French merchant ships, GINETTE LA BORGNE 16191 tons, and CASSIDAIGNE, 1417 tons Press reports state mined off Sardinia while on way from N. Africa to Marseilles. The CAP TOURANE, 8009 tons also said to have been damaged. (D.S. 379)

Flying Boat Patrols

2 Sunderlands 228 Sqdn. patrol Malta-Antag-Crete-Aboukir. One Cont. 501 shot down in sea confirmed. One Sunderland 228 Sqdn. Alexandria-Famagusta investigating facilities flying boat base, results not yet reported. (H.C., R.A.F., M.E., 1204/18)

/Operations....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operations

Fleet activities on night of 17th. LADYBIRD carried out a bombardment of Escarpment Road at Sollum at close range. JUNO and JANUS attacked enemy concentrations at Sidi Barrani. Both bombardments believed to have had considerable success. On 16/9 F.A.A. aircraft of ILLUSTRIOUS set one Merchant ship on fire probably sank a destroyer and damaged several other ships in Benghazi. An enemy C.ant was also shot down by a Fulmar. My 1209/18, The sweep in Aegean including continued air search failed to find any surface vessels, Merchant or otherwise. Convoy A.N. 3. escorted by CALCUTTA and two destroyers bombed unsuccessfully several times. (C. in C., Med. 2239/18)

Mine Depot

Admrty. 0434/17. Not practical to establish mine depot at Alexandria at present. Construction work at Haifa mine depot complete but mines cannot be stored until A/A defences augmented vide my 1645/24/8. (C. in C. Med., 1739/18)

East Indies

A.P. 3. CORNWALL.

Your 1304/13 and 1258/17. May not be possible to relieve CORNWALL from her duties in Gulf of Guinea to escort A.P. 3. from Cape, in which case escort by CARTHAGE will have to be accepted. Information about U.S. C. not yet available. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., E.I., 0015/18)

Defence Plans

Burma and Bay of Bengal. Conclusions of Chiefs of Staff Committee. (Air Min. to A.H.Q. Far East, 0900/18)

B.N. 6.

Convoy B.N.6. date of leaving Bombay, and route (F.O.C.E.I.N., 11223/18)

New Zealand Convoy

Reply to his 1934/16. (D.O.D.(F) 1940/18 to C. in C., E.I.)

/ S/M X 2....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Submarine X.2.

H.M. Submarine X.2. (ex Italian) sails for Alexandria in B.N.S. in tow of salvage tug PROTECTOR (C. in C., E.I., 06222/18)

B.S. 5½

Date of leaving Suez. All ships will carry evacuated families except OTRANTO, which will carry military personnel and ammunition from Mombasa and be diverted accordingly. B.S. 5½ will continue as a convoy from Aden to South Africa. (C. in C., E.I., 00432/18)

China

Dutch Cooperation

C. in C. China's 1617/14, 1315/16 and Admty. 2139/16. Netherlands Govt. have agreed to use of Dutch submarines by C. in C., Dutch E.I., for escort duties in Indian Ocean. Dutch Admty. desire they should be employed in close cooperation with British Naval authorities. To implement this they have no objection to Dutch N.L.O. being sent to Colombo in addition to Singapore should C. in C., Dutch E.I. so desire. C. in C., China's 0945/17. Admty have no objection. (D.O.D. (F) 1309/18)
Your 0945/17. Yes. Presume close surface escort will be normal practice but should like to know what their orders are in event of a raider being met with. (C. in C., E.I., to C. in C China, 08402/18)

My 1334/24. Proposals of Dutch C. in C. Netherlands East Indies, apart from (c) (d) and (e) raise questions of major importance which are more appropriate for discussion between H.M. Government and Netherlands Government in this country. Reply accordingly. (Head of M. 1334/18)

Interned Aliens

Transport W.1. leaves Singapore p.m. 18 for Sydney. Route. (S.O. Malaya, 03572/18, 04384/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

American & West Indies

DELAMERE

(Left Rio Grande do Sul 30/6 for Freetown. Believed attacked by raider 11/7) Boat reported washed ashore off River Pacoty, south of Mucuripe Point near Ceara, N. Brazil. (D.S. 379)

U.S. Destroyers, Use as Escort

Admty. 1631/17 and F.O. 3 B.S. 1935/17. No sufficient confidence in these destroyers at present to recommend how much would be adequate protection. Could CARADOC or other cruiser be made available to accompany second running of destroyers and troopship from Halifax (date) ? Cruiser escort to be relieved midway across. If necessary for destroyer to call S. John's N.F. suggest troopships and cruisers delay sailing and R.V. with destroyer as directed by F.O. 3 B.S. (C.N.S. Canada 1202/18 to Admty.)

DESPATCH and DUNEDIN have left for U.K. and DIOMEDE is refitting, proposal in C.N.S. Canada will leave me with no cruisers other than Dutch sloop VAN KINSBERGEN for whole West Indian Sphere. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1901/18 to Admty.)

1st Town Flotilla

By 2231/16. First Town Flotilla less HERMIDON and MONAGHAN. Route. (F.O. 3. B.S. 1409/18)

U.S. Bases

Concessions which could be made in each area without detriment to our own interests. (Details) Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia, Trinidad, British Guinea. (Hd. of M. to C. in C. A.W.I., 1808/18)

CYMBELINE sunk by raider

Admiralty tanker, 6317 tons, sunk by enemy raider 2/9. First Officer and 3rd Engineer landed at Coveras, Columbia, 15/9, by Panamanian tanker YOLANDA. Rest of crew captured except one man missing. CYMBELINE sailed from Gibraltar 31/8 for Trinded armed with one 4" and one 12 pdr. gun. (S.O.L., Kingston, 0858/18, D.S. 380)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ITILA/KA — Arrived Poti with 3000 tons manganese ore for Germany. (Macrea, Galatz, 1025/17 recd. 1117/18)

LARISSA — Left in ballast, Russia (Macrea, Galatz, 1025/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

THOMILLA (Torpedoed 2/9)

Position now given as 57° N., 14.30°W 34 survivors landed 14 in Canada, 20 & Lowestoft, 3 are missing. (D.S. 379)

CROWN ARUN (Torpedoed 17/9)

Position now given as 58° 03' N., 14.20 W., (D.S. 379) Your 1931/17. Have picked up one boat load containing master and 12 of crew of British CROWN ARUN, position 57.48 N., 11.50W torpedoed at about 1010/17. Am sending for other boat. (WINCHELSEA to C. in C., W.A., 0600/18)

MAGDALENA

Intercepted at 1705 G.M.T., de Malin Head, position 57. 20 N., 20.16 W., unknown ship torpedoed 1652/18 (Canada) Port Patrick Radio (F.O.I.C., Greenock no T.O.O./18 Valentia Radio, 1702/18) From unknown ship 57.20 N., 20.16 W., torpedoed 1658/18. Name of ship thought to be MAGDALENA. (Valentia Radio, no T.O.O./18. British 3118 tons homeward bound independently from St. John's N.F. for Holyhead and Liverpool (D.S. 380)

EMPIRE VOLUNTEER (Torpedoed 16/9)

Seven survivors including master from EMPIRE VOLUNTEER landed Belfast 17/9. Vessel torpedoed 0130/16 approx 56.43 N 16.17 W. Believed 26 survivors landed Clyde, 8 believed missing. Second Officer died en route to Belfast. Vessel in Convoy S.C. 3. (F.O I.C. Belfast, 1640/18)

THESSALIA

The ship in convoy sunk at 1630/17 was British THESSALIA, 5242 tons, from Philadelphia for Newport. All survivors picked up. (D.S. 380)

Submarines Reported

0143 — Enemy submarine 55.30 N., 10.30 W., at 0143 (C. in C., W.A., 0247/18) cancel my 0247 (C. in C., W.A. 0403/18)

0950 — 51.30 N., 13° W., Position indefinite (D.S. 379)

1055 — 1 submarine 000 degrees 0 060 degrees 327 C.W.H. 15. (A.C.O.S., 1055/18 to Scapa Forces)

1801 — Attack submarine in 57.20 N., 20.16 W at 1801 (C. in C., W.A. to HURRICANE 1809/18)

/ 1752...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.9.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1752 — A.F. message 57.30 N., 20.16 W., at 1652/18 G.M.T., (D.D.I.C., 1959/18)

Important that ships sighting a U-Boat should invariable report whether a periscope or a submarine on the surface has been sighted. Any further information, such as the course of the submarine or its distance and bearing from the sighting ship is of of value. (D.T.D. 1205/18)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — Italian- Still no news.

German- 1 about 130' W. of Westmost at 0930/18 course unknown.
1 in 56° 43' N., 21° 15' W. at 2308/17
3 in N.W.Approaches of which 1 was in 58° 21' N. 15° 48' W., at 1530/17, 1 may possibly be between 55° and 56° N. 11° and 12° W. No news of the third.
1 between Shetlands and Norway homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1338/18)

Submarines Attacked

1345/14 — By 1038/14. Having interrogated pilot and observer of Swordfish aircraft sent to attack, consider that there is little doubt that a U-boat was destroyed by depth charge attack in approx. position 58.56 N., 04.53 W., between 1345 and 1545/14 (A.C.S.S., 1959/18)

By PORPOISE — Large number fishing vessels between Ile de Glenan and Belle Isle.
Unsuccessful attack U-Boat, position 47.28 N., 04.18 W., No air or surface patrol observed. (PORPOISE 2201/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

NIGERIA left the Tyne this morning for trials and passage to Rosyth screened by TARTAR and MAORI.

The usual anti invasion patrols by destroyers were carried out last night without incident.

An operation by M.T.B's last night close off shore between Flushing and Nieuport was cancelled on account of the weather.

Submarine H 49 reports that at 0450/16 she attacked a large enemy convoy off Vlieland and estimated two hits.

British Air Operations

A total of 145 aircraft were detailed to attack enemy invasion bases last night and 5 to attack gun emplacements at Cape Gris Nez. Particularly heavy and successful attacks were carried out at Le Havre.

Enemy Air Operations

Enemy activity today was on a much reduced scale.

F.N. 65 Convoy was unsuccessfully bombed early this afternoon near Margate.

Last night damage was done to civil property at Liverpool, at Birkenhead, Southend and to the Military Quarters at Tilbury Fort.

The dockyard at Portland was straddled by bombs from one Junkers 1800, but no damage was caused.

MOST SECRET

19.9.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

6 Aircraft last night laid mines in the Elbe Estuary.

Enemy minelaying by aircraft last night is suspected off the Norfolk coast to the Wash and Spurn Head to St Abbs.

An explosion occurred one cable from ELECTRA at Inchkieth at 0942 today.

The Clyde was closed between Port Glasgow and Dumbarton Pier early this morning, owing to suspected mines. Barrow in Furness was closed at 0135.

Cromarty and Inverness were closed following the mining of the small tanker SHELLBUIT ONE early this morning presumably by a magnetic mine.

Owing to a suspected mine in the Thames all movement of shipping was stopped between Greenhythe and Coalhouse Fort from 0435 until 0950 today.

Movements in the Medway were stopped from 1800/18 to 1000/19 owing to reported laying of magnetic mines off Upnor and Bulls Nose

Operation "Menace"

Force M., consisting of DEVONSHIRE (flag) BARHAM, INGLEFIELD, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, FORTUNE and FURY, left Freetown at 1400.

Convoy M.S., escorted by BRIDGEWATER, B.D.V. QUANTET, and French armed trawler PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE, left Freetown at 1200.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

French Cruisers

AUSTRALIA while proceeding to relieve CUMBERLAND on patrol south of Dakar at 1026Z today sighted the GEORGE LEYGUES, MONTCALM and GLOIRE off the coast of French Guinea, steering 130° and shadowed them; CUMBERLAND joined later, and S.O. Force M in DEVONSHIRE, BARHAM and 5 destroyers left Freetown to assist.

It appeared the French Cruisers were proceeding to join PRIMAUGUET with an oiler at Libreville.

About 18382/19, the French ships turned 16 points and 29 knots, AUSTRALIA continuing to shadow. They were directed not to return to Dakar and in reply asked what the British cruiser would do if they went to Point Noire Bay. AUSTRALIA was not then in a position to use force. At 22372/19, GLOIRE which had broken down informed AUSTRALIA that she was making for Conakry. Meantime, at 13292/19, CORNWALL reported the French cruiser PRIMAUGUET which had been sighted by her aircraft to the S.W. of Takoradi 18/9 was stopped. The French ship, after a protest which was disallowed, turned to westward. CORNWALL had threatened to open fire if he steered eastward. The Captain of the French cruiser is reported as pro-Vichy and his crew ready to carry out orders.

Operation Menace

Convoy M.S. left Freetown 1200/19 escorted by BRIDGEWATER, Boom Defence Vessel QUAIGUET, and French armed trawler PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE.

ARK ROYAL

The ARK ROYAL reports certain boiler defects, but can maintain 28 knots on 5 boilers.

French Ports

British, Allied and Charter shipping may now call at ports in the French Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa, excluding Gabeon (Libreville)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air Attacks on Benghazi

C. in C., Med. reports that at 0150/17 an air attack was successfully carried out on Benghazi. Mines were laid. 9 aircraft made dive bombing attack on 2 groups of ships, resulting in large explosion of ship's magazine in one group and at least one ship on fire in the other group. All aircraft returned.

Reconnaissance yesterday showed two large ships probably tankers on fire and two other large ships out of action. 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer and 3 transports were seen entering harbour.

Wellingtons attacked shipping at Benghazi today, scoring four hits.

Air Attacks on Dodecanese

Bombing attacks were made yesterday on aerodromes in the Dodecanese Islands in an effort to reduce enemy attacks on Palestine and Alexandria. Hangers and a power station at a fuel store were hit.

Air Attacks on Cyrenaica

To protect disabled[illegible] air attacks were made yesterday on landing grounds in Cyrenaica. Night attacks were made yesterday on Derna, Bardia and Bomba.

Cyprus

It is known that the Italian Air Command Dodecanese, has been ordered to avoid damage to certain places in Cyprus, probably to avoid antagonising American interests.

THEOPHILE GAUTIER

French, was intercepted by Sunderland flying boat south of Cyprus p.m./18 and ordered to proceed to Haifa. No ship was available to intercept her, and she proceeded to Beirut, evening 0930/19.

MOST SECRET

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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Ex-Italian Submarine

Ex-Italian submarine X 2 left Aden for Alexandria at 0345Z today in tow of salvage vessel PROTECTOR in convoy B.N. 5. escorted by LEANDER, PARRAMATTA and INDUS.

Convoy Attacked

A convoy was attacked today 7 miles south of Aden.

Air Attack on Aden

Aden was bombed today by one enemy aircraft and some damage was done to one service building.

Raider

The French COMMISSAIRE RAMEL reported she was being gunned by a raider at 1940 G.M.T. in the Indian Ocean, about mid-way between South Africa and Australia.

French Evacuees

The French are expected to ask to evacuate 150 persons on medical grounds from Djibuti to Madagascar in the armed tanker ELORN.

Australia

Western Pacific

New Caledonia has declared for General de Gaulle, who has appointed M. Sautot as Governor and High Commissioner, Western Pacific, vice Lieut. Col. Denis, who refused to join with Free French Forces. Moral support to this change was given by the ADELAIDE, which remained outside the Inner Harbour. The Captain of the French sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE is resisting the change, and his relief has been requested by M. Sautot.

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Orders to Submarines

S 5 1426/18/9/40 to URSULA and SWORDFISH. Most strongly urge that orders to submarines to report first and attack afterwards should not be given under these circumstances. Surely if a submarine is in a position to attack the enemy her primary object should be to sink that enemy and to go on sinking enemy ships until there are none left or the submarine has no torpedoes left. Then she could report. (C. in C. H.F., 1024/19 to Adty.)

C. in C., Home Fleet 1024/19. Orders for submarines in my command are approved by me for following reasons:- Large assemblies of enemy craft are 60-80 miles from our coast. We have flotillas ready at immediate notice. Time and early warning are all important factors and in bad weather or reduced visibility the patrol submarines will be our only source of information. Importance of striking forces receiving early orders outweighs in my opinion the damage which one submarine could do to a large concentration of ships or even her loss in getting her report through. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1913/19 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Notice for Steam

My 1655/5. Ships in para 1 to revert to notice for steam as C. in C's and F.O's decide. Ships in para 2 are to be ready to sail at 6 hours notice. (A.C.N.S., M. 1625/19)

Orkneys A/A Defences

Requested you consult local authorities to provide A/A defence of Skeabrae and St Twatt Aerodromes by re-disposition of equipment now in Orkney. (A.C.N.S. M. 1904/19 to A.C.O.S.)

Information to H.Q.F.C. in case of Invasion

Your 1940/15. Onus of keeping H.Q.F.C. fully informed must lie with A.C.H.Q. N.L.O. at Fighter Command will no doubt ask for further information if he does not fully understand the signals made to him. (A.C.N.S. M. 163/19 to C. in C., Nore.)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

FOWEY — Passing Buchan Ness northbound at 8½ knots (FOWEY 0500/20 to C. in C., Rosyth)

VETERAN — My 1001/18. Sailing delayed 24 hours (C. in C., Nore, 1125/19 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Dover Patrols — Night 19/20. (V.A.Dover 1369/19)

Portsmouth — Movements for night 19/20 (C. in C.,

WIDGEON — Sailed from Harwich 1621/19. (F.O.I.C Harwich 1627/19)

Western Approaches — Movements (C. in C., W.A. 1745/19 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Orkneys — State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/19)

Operations

Trondheim Operation D.T. — Your 0122/12 and 1902/18. Would an operation on line of my 0924/10 but against Tronheim be permitted. (C. in C., H.F., 0855/19 to Adty.) Yes. (1st S.L. 1512/19 to C. in C., H.F.

An operation short title D.T. on line D.H. phase one but directed against shipping at Tronheim is to be carried out by BERWICK NORFOLK FURIOUS SOMALI ESKIMO and MATABELE. Operation should take place by moon light with alternative of dawn should this be more appropriate in prevailing weather conditions. Attack on Tronheim is however not to be carried out by day light unless cloud cover is available but this restriction does not apply to an alternative of coastal targets. R.A. (D) H.F. is requested to issue operation orders and circumstances permitting to sail the force tomorrow 20/9. (C. in C., H.F., 1826/19 to R.A.D. H.F.)

H. 49....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

H.42
Attacks Convoy

H. 49 reports constant A/S trawler sweeps down Sturgeon searched channel. At 0450/16 she attacked a large enemy convoy in 53° 16' N., 4° 42' E., of 8 M/V's. 2 hits estimated. (V.A.N. 1049/19 to Adty.)

Channel Patrol

My 1607/18. Patrol report Blank. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1100/19 to Adty)

Start Point

A Patrol is to be established tonight from 50° N., 3° 30' W., to 50° 35' N 3° W., (C. in C., W.A. 1249/19 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

Channel Patrol

Tonight 19/9 WOLVERINE, WITHERINGTON, BULLDOG, BEAGLE patrol Eastward to limit of Portsmouth Command. (C. in C Portsmouth 1507/19 to Adty.)

Shetlands

Northern Patrol Trawler lines occupied to-day. (F.O.C.S. 1536/19)

Harwich
Auxiliary Patrol

Is based on Ipswich as from 19/9 (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1342/19 to C. in C., Nore)

Iceland

Norwegian Patrol Vessel NORDKAPP sailed Stornoway 1251/19 for Iceland (C. in C., Rosyth 1949/19 to Adty.)

Submarines

H.42

At 0450/16 attacked 8 M/V's in large Enemy Convoy in 53° 16' N., 4° 42' E 2 hits estimated (H.49 0103/19 to S.O. S/M's Harwich)

H.44.

Patrol in Zone H. 1. Constant A/S Trawler sweep down Searched Channel. (S.O.S. Harwich, 0319/19 to H. 44.)

URSULA
SWORDFISH
L. 27

Cancel my 1426/18 and and 1425/18. after arrival at Dungeness, S/M's are to proceed as follows (Capt S. S. 1129/19 to URSULA) (C. in C., Nore, 1818/19 to V.A.S.)

/ Fourth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines- Contd.

Fourth Channel Patrol

S. 5's 1429/19. Suggest that three patrols already established cover the Channel Ports from which large concentrations of shipping may proceed and that if a fourth submarine is available she would be more advantageously employed off Brest where there is considerable shipping which could sail for the west and south udetected by our air patrols. (C. in C., W.A., 1327/19 to Admty.)

Your 1327/19. I have only sufficient submarines to keep three patrols in operation. The object of the fourth patrol is in extreme urgency to cover possible approach to Lyme bay. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2003/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

Dutch Submarines O.22 and O.23

Movements and Routes. (Capt. S. 9. 1331/19 to S/M O.22)

TALISMAN

Intend to sail at 1700/20 for Area W. 2. to relieve H.43 Route. (S. 5. 1433/19 to Admty.)

H. 43.

Movements and Route. (Capt S. 5. 1443/19 to H. 43.)

Admty. 1833/7/7

Greenock Area Movements (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1644/19)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/20 (V.A.S. 1646/19)

Admty. 1832/9/9.

L. 27 and H. 43 in Patrol D. 4 and W.2. respectively (C. in C., Portsmouth 1751/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

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ENEMY COVERING

British Air Activity

Fighter Protection — Down to 0630/19 for Submarine on surface escorted by Trawler, St Albans Head to Needles (C. in C., Portsmouth 0443/19) From 0700/19 to dusk/19 for 4 destroyers, Land End to Liverpool at 18 knots (C. in C., W.A. 0639/19) Daylight to 1300/20 for Trinity House ALERT and corvette VIDGEON in [illegible] 159 and return to Sheerness (C. in C., Nore 1726/19) From 0730 to 1630/20 for 3 M/S trawlers (C. in C., W.A., 2031/19) From 0600 to 1100/20 for 1 Destroyer from 52° 25' N., 5° 27' W. to Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A. 2143/19)

French & Belgian Ports — Aircraft attacks on Docks and Shipping during night 18/19. (Bomber Command Intelligence Summary No 433 and No 434).

Rosyth Air Searches — For 20/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1728/19)

Patrol H.C. — By 1215/11. In future the time of Patrol H.C. is to be varied. One sortie to be at daylight or dusk and the other at times varying from day to day. (A.C.C.S. 1818/19 to Hatston)

S.A.L. (A) — Not in operation tonight owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1830/19 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

E.N. Convoy PILOT — Being attacked by aircraft in 51° 37' N., 1° 13' course 043° speed 9 knots (LONDONDERRY 1274/19 to C. in C., Nore) One A/C 12 small bombs. No hits. (VIVIEN 1285/19) (LONDONDERRY 1300/19)

Portland — Attack on one fishers at 1800. Bombs straddled Dockyard. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1903/19 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday.

HOME WATERS

Mining

Clyde — Closed, owing to suspected Mines (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0134/19) Necessary to close only channel between Port Glasgow and Dumbarton Pier. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1712/19) River open for all traffic but sweeping will continue. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1427/19)

Barrow-in-Furness — Closed owing to suspected Minelaying by A/C (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 0215/19) Port open (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1435/19) (to Adty.)

Thames — Suspected Mine in river. All shipping to cease between Greenhithe and Coalhouse Fort till further orders. (F.O.I.C. London 0435/19) River clear and Traffic may be released. (F.O.I.C. London 0950/19)

SHELDRIT ORE — Tanker Blew up at 0744/19 in 57° 39' 8" N., 3° 56' 30" W. Fierce fire and sinking. Presumed M.Mine. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0850/19 to Adty.) Agents state ship de-gaussed at Sunderland 27/5/40. One body recovered. Feared no survivors (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1132/19 to Adty.) 4 2S.150 swept without result. Explosion possibly internal and not due to Mine (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1307/19 to Adty.)

Cromarty / Inverness — Closed to all Ships. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0850/19 to Adty) Expect Cromarty will be opened at 1800/19, but not Inverness (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1145/19 to Adty.) Cromarty and Inverness open (F.O.I.C. 1800/19 to Adty.)

Faroes — Two more surface failures sunk by gunfire. Reports of further failures being investigated. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1930/19 to Adty.) Proceed to Thors Havn and investigate surface failures reported in ZED (A) (D.O.D. H 1823/19 to TEVIOT BANK)

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Operations S.N.

R.A.M.L. 2348/18 with present disposition of Home Fleet I see no prospect of being able to provide escort for operation S.N. Screen for REPULSE and FURIOUS at Scapa consists of five destroyers of which three are working up after long refit At Rosyth there are seven destroyers available to screen three capital ships and four for T.S.D.S. One Destroyer is boiler cleaning at each base. (C. in C., H.F. 1015/19 to Adty.)

Firth of Forth

At 0942/19 an explosion occurred, southward of Channel between East and West Gates, Inchkeith, one cable from ELECTRA's bows. No other vessel near (C. in C., Rosyth 1225/19 to Adty.) ELECTRA reports position of explosion 012° Inchkeith Light 7½ cables. Degaussing was in operation. Particulars (C. in C., Rosyth 1824/19 to Adty.)

Operation R.R. (Mines off Flushing)

By 1220/18. Time and place may be modified at your discretion so as to produce best results. (C. in C., Nore 1433/19 to F.O.I.C. Harwich) MALLARD, SHELDRAKE and 3 Destroyers detailed by D.16 to sail 22/9. Begin lay at 0030/23 in direction 037° from 51° 30' N., 3° 12' E. Complete laying by 0130, Corvettes returning to Harwich and Destroyers remaining on T Patrol. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2027/19)

Chatham

From 1800/18 to 1000/19. Movements temporarily suspended owing to reported laying of Magnetic mines off Upnor and Bulls Nose. (C. in C., Nore, 1545/19 to Adty.)

Orkneys

One British Mine detonated and 3 recovered in Area. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 2105/9 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy Main Units	My 1653/12. Wilhelmshaven. Per 11/9 read 14.0. (D.D.I.C. 1545/19 to A.I.C. 45)
Gris Nez Guns	P.I.U. 17/9 shows 4 large Railway Guns on spur of Ambleteuse Branch railway, barrels pointing North. (D.N.I. 1841/19 to C. in C., Nore)
3 Enemy Cruisers	Friendly neutral Attache states he saw 3 German Cruisers, believed LEIPZIG, KOLN and one HIPPER class, at Sassnitz p.m./18th. Graded C.4. (N.A. Stockholm 2325/19 to D.N.I.) (N.I.D. Comment. Likely to be correct. Re-graded C. 2)
Dutch, French and Belgian Ports and Coasts	A/C reconnaissances (Bomber Command Intelligence Summary No 433 and 434)

MOST SECRET

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CADUCEUS — British 4364 tons. Due Durban 15/9 from U.K. Not arrived (S.O.I. Cape Town 1045/19)

LACKLAN — British Tanker 8670 tons. Due Cape Town 16/9 from Basrah. Not arrived (S.O.I. Cape Town 1045/19)

LIVERSULR — British Tanker 9456 tons Left Barry 21/8 for Abadan. Not reported Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1045/19)

AUDITOR — British 5444 tons. Left Liverpool 23/8 for Calcutta. Not reported Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I. Cape)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.B.M. 217	Trawler ARSENAL. 11. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1136/19)
H.X. and S.C.	To be routed south of area in Admty. 1257/7/8 to avoid U-Boat patrols. (C. in C., W.A., 1950/19)
H.T.	Will leave Methil 1700/20, escort BURNET, WINCHESTER who are subsequently to escort F.S. 87 (C. in C., Rosyth 1835/19)
E.N. 6. C.A. 2.6. H.X.A. 71	Positions (A.C.C.S., 1551/19)
H.T. F.S. 86. F.N. 84	Positions (C. in C., Rosyth, 1934/19)
W.N. 16. O.A. 217.	Positions (C. in C., Rosyth, 1932/19)
O.L. 3.	Sailed with KEPPEL and ACTIVE (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 3201/19) List (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1447/19)
H.G. 44.	Left Gib., 1640/19, escort LEITH and VELOX (S.O.L., Gib., 2054/19)
O.G. 43.	By 1527/18. HIGHLANDER, HESPERUS and MANCHESTER to join. (C. in C., W.A. 1529/19)
S.H.X. 75.	Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney 1426/19)
H.X. 72.	Meet (C. in C., W.A. 1430/19)
F.S. & H.T. Numbering	It is proposed to synchronise the number of F.S. and H.T. convoys. If approved the H.T. leaving Methil on Saturday September 21st will be numbered 88 and will connect with F.S. 88 at Tyne. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1102/20)
S.L. 49.	Ocean Route (D.T.D. 1624/19)
S.L.	No tankers to be included in next S.L. Convoy (4th S.L. 2029/19)
H.X. 75.	Ocean escort AURANIA sailing 21/9 (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1747/19)

/EMPIRE BEAVER...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

	Shipping
BEAVER	To proceed Milford Haven to make good engine defects. (C. in C., W.A., 2038/19)
LADY OF MAN	Passing Rothesay northwards 2000/19 (C. in C., Rosyth 1934/19)
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	Alter course forthwith (details) Zigzag continuously. (D.T.D. 2021/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

	Operation "Menace" and French Naval Forces
French Cruisers	3 cruisers bearing 345°, distance 14 miles, course 120°. My position is 10.23' N., W. (AUSTRALIA, 1019Z/19, to C. in C., S.A. and S.O., Force M.)
	Join me. My position course and speed 10.24' N., 16.59' W., 130°, 22 knots. (AUSTRALIA to CUMBERLAND, 1021Z/19)
	French cruisers LA GALISSONNIERE class (AUSTRALIA 1022Z/19)
	Am shadowing, course 145 degrees. (AUSTRALIA, 1026Z/19)
PRIMAUGUET Stopped	Your 2117H/15. French cruiser PRIMAUGUET stopped 1147Z. (CORNWALL to C. in C., S.A., 1229Z/19)
	My 1229Z/19. After protest which I disallowed PRIMAUGUET turned to westwards. French Captain asked as between gentlemen to remain stopped until 1700Z, having already made clear that I will open fire if he steers eastwards. Captain pro-Vichy, crew well trained ready to carry out orders. Captain willing to fight but considers Germans would be the only winners. (CORNWALL 1509Z/19)
	My 1509Z/19. PRIMAUGUET steaming 280° 12 knots, since 1700Z. Am shadowing My position 1700Z/19, 002.05' N., 01.09' W. (CORNWALL, 1630Z/19)
	My 1251. Course of enemy is 142°. My position is 09.00' N., 16.25' W. (AUSTRALIA, 1400Z/19)
	My 1400. Amend position to read 09.44' N., 16.30' W. No further change (AUSTRALIA, 1502Z/19)
	3 French cruisers LA GALISSONNIERE class, position course and speed at 1152Z, 010.00' N., 16.43' W., 145°, 17 knots. (C. in C., S.A. to CORNWALL 1507/19)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and
French Naval Force

Situation

AUSTRALIA 1019Z/19. Appears probable these Cruisers proceeding to join French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET with Oiler at Libreville. Though to let force pass would clear the way for "Menace" and might enable that to be carried through successfully, there are no forces South of Freetown to prevent French Cruisers taking what action they wish and all Ports including British are undefended except Duala. Also "Menace" might result in war by Vichy. F.O. Force M agrees that Cruisers should be intercepted unless otherwise ordered and is proceeding in DEVONSHIRE to meet AUSTRALIA and CUMBERLAND with some Destroyers, BANHAM following. F.O. Force M. intends to carry out procedure directed earlier witha message from de Gaulle. Cruisers will be told to proceed to Casablanca.
F.O. Force M cannot escort whole way there. CUMBERLAND requires fuel as also will Destroyers and BANHAM. M.T. Convoy has sailed and will continue at present being recalled if necessary. Troop transport will remain ready to sail at 0800/20 but will not sail unless F.O. Force M. signals instructions to do so.

Alternatives are: (a) To leave French Cruisers North of Dakar accepting possibility of their return there.
(b) Definitely to allow them to return to Dakar.
(c) Take Cruisers North of Dakar and then maintain watch as long as possible to prevent return.

(a) and (b). "Menace" might continue
(c) "Menace" must be indefinitely postponed. If ships leaving resist, and were overcome or joined free French "Menace" might still continue. It is clear that with strong French Naval force and use of Dakar the threat to West Africa will continue and must be dealt with; and I personally consider that "Menace" in some form is key to situation. Further action will await F.O. Force M's report. (C. in C., S.A., 1421/19 to Admty.)

/Your 1359....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and French Naval Force-Contd.

Your 1359. Position course and speed of enemy are at 1400N, 09.38' N., 16.5' W., 145°, 17 knots. (AUSTRALIA, 1535Z/19, to S.O., Force M.)

Your 1502Z/19. Position received as 09.44' N., 16.30' W.; amend if incorrect. (C. in C., S.A. to AUSTRALIA 1545/19)

My 1400. Enemy bear 062° 11 miles. My position 09.15' N., 16.12' W., course 155°, speed of advance 17 knots. (AUSTRALIA to S.O. Force M. and C. in C., S.A. 1613Z/19)

Admty Orders.

Do not allow French cruisers to return to Dakar. Tell them we consider it under German influence, and after parley make them either surrender and enter Freetown or proceed under escort and proper safeguards to Casablanca. (1st S.L. to C. in C., S.A. 1754/19)

Admty. 1754/19. Act accordingly. (S.O. Force M., to AUSTRALIA, 1930H/19)

"Menace" to continue

Your 1421/19 and my 1754/19. (a) Menace should be carried out without delay. (b) French forces not to be allowed to return to Dakar but to be escorted as far north as is compatible with (a) (D.O.D. (F) to C.S.A., 1946/19)

My 1427/14. (French reaction to operation in West African theatre). Operation referred to is now in progress. (1st S.L., 2013/19 to Cs. in C)

French Movements

My 1613. Position course and speed of enemy are 08.58' N., 15.46' W., 12 knots. (AUSTRALIA 1629Z/19)

My 1629. Enemy has altered course 180° to port. (AUSTRALIA 1638Z/19)

/My 1638.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and French Naval Force-Contd.

French Movements-Contd.

My 1838. Enemy course 320°. Enemy increased speed. My position is 08.45' N 15.52 W., (AUSTRALIA, 1848Z/ 19)

AUSTRALIA's 1848Z. My position course and speed are 08.11' N., 14.30' W., 315°, 18 knots. (BARHAM, 1840Z/19)

My 1848. Speed of enemy is 29 knots. (AUSTRALIA, 1901Z/19)

My 1901. Position speed and course of enemy are 09.09' N., 15.54' W., 320° 29 knots. Am endeavouring to keep touch. (AUSTRALIA, 1915Z/19)

Have made message by S/P to French directing them not to return to Dakar without reply. They are 12 miles to northward of me. I am just holding them at 31 knots. My position is 09.02' N., 15.57' W., (AUSTRALIA, 1930Z/19)

French have replied and asked what I will do if they go to Point Noire Bay. Am not yet in a position to use force. (AUSTRALIA, 1955Z/19)

My position course and speed are 09.20' N., 16.07' W., 332°, 31 knots. Have lost touch. (AUSTRALIA 2010Z/19)

AUSTRALIA's 2121Z (not to Admty) Have altered course to 145° at 2100, position 08.41' N., 15.00 W., speed 15 knots. (BARHAM, 2100Z/19)

Making for Conakry

Cruiser informs me he is making for Conakry, 09.30' N., 13.45' W., (AUSTRALIA, 2237Z/19)

Your 2033. You should attempt to Parley. (S.O. Force H., to (CUMBERLAND, repeated AUSTRALIA, 2306/19)

/ARK ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and French Naval Force-Contd.

ARK ROYAL — Reporting boiler defects. Speed of 28 knots can be maintained on5 boilers (ARK ROYAL 1628M/19 to S.O. Force H.)

Force H. — Departures 1400/19. DEVONSHIRE flying flag of S.O. Force H., BARHAM, INGLEFIELD, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, FORTUNE and FURY. (S.O.I.Freetown, 1855/19)

DRAGON — Expected to arrive 1830/20. Fuel remaining on arrival 34% (DRAGON 2138M/19)

Convoy H.3. — Left 1200/19, escort BRIDGEWATER, B.D.V. QUARTET and French armed trawler PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE (S.O.I., Freetown, 1935/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Force H. — Method of interception proposed in your 1610/18 and 0025/19 approved. (V.C.N.S., 1853/19 to S.O. Force H.)

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE — Your 1143/16. Expect to sail 21/9. to arrive Freetown (date) (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0857?/19 to C. in C., S.A)

Overdue Ships — CADUCEUS due Durban 15/9 from U.K., LACHLAN due Capetown 16/9 from Basra, not arrived INVERSUIR, Barry 21/8 Abadan, AUDITOR Liverpool 23/8 for Calcutta, not reported Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1045/19)

MALOJA — Left 0900/19 as ocean escort to convoy S.L. 48 and thence to Greenock in accordance C. in C., S.A., 1351W/18. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1511/19)

Oilers — Admty. 1738/27/8 and my 1915/18. Oiler VINGA sailed for Abadan. Intend oiler ATHEL DUCHESS discharging at Capetown retaining sufficient fuel for ROYAL SOVEREIGN on return voyage. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1733/19)

French Ports — My 1216/29/8. and my 1706/31/8. British Allied and charter shipping may now call at ports in French Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa excluding Gaboon (Libreville) (C. in C., S.A., 1916/19)

French Africa — Situation Report No 19. No change. (D.N.I., 1843/19)

Report from Gen. de Gaulle to Adm. Muselier and Comdt. Fontaine. Refers to future policy, after West Africa dealt with, regarding mandated Levantine States and seizure of French Colonies in America, and approving what has been done in Pacific. (Spears Mission, Sierra Leone, to W.O., 0342/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Hurricanes

Your 1245/16. Confirmed no more being shipped abroad at present. Number now at Takoradi or en route across. Your suggestion as to a second "Hurry" will be borne in mind. (D.N.A.D. to C. in C., Med., 1216/19)

KENT

Suggesting no public reference to damage. (C. in C., Med. 1049/19) Your 1049. Admty do not intend to make any announcement at present. While loss is always announced, policy is never to admit damage to H.M.Ships unless certainly known to enemy. (D. F.D.,to C. in C., Med., 1229/19)

Your 1457/18. Any further details valuable. Reported that Italians are developing high dropping technique. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 2158/19)

Italians and Cyprus

Now known that about 7/7 Italian Air Command Dodecanese instructed that in event of operations against Cyprus damage to following places was to be avoided. Morphou, Lefka, Keravatassi (A.l.) Probable order was given to avoid antagonising American interests. (N.I.D. to C. in C., Med., 1936/19)

Convoys A.P.1. and 2.

Dates of arrival Suez. Not known whether Army desire unloading Suez or Alexandria, but whichever decided request you ensure no delay (1st .SL to C. in C., Med., 2238/19)

B.N. 6. Oilers

Request 3 large oilers be included for Mediterranean Fleet. (C. in C., Med. 1219/19)

Submarine Patrols

My 1455/8. Establish new patrol line (details) (Capt. S. 1. to PANDORA RONQUAL, 1531/19)

Operations Communique

Following being issued to Press on naval operations night of 17/18-(9 against enemy concetrations on Coast Sollum and Sid Barrani, and air attack on Benghasi. (C. in C., Med., 2038/19 2040/19)

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta Defences

Admty. 2345/15 and C. in C., Med. 0937/17. Subject to further information as to plan and in particular to proposal for passage of personnel, have no further remarks to add to my 1245/6, except to emphasize that if H.T. ship is disguised she must not call at Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H., 1153/19 to Admty.)

Outline of dispositions for military defence of Malta, and suggesting 2 additional battalions for reasonable security. (Govr. to W.O., 1620/19)

Oilers

Request 3 large oilers be included in B.N. 6 for Meditn. Fleet. (C. in C., Med. 1219/19)

Benghasi, Air Attack

My 1537/15 and 1145/17. Summary of operation. Attack on Benghasi successfully carried out without interference at 0150/17. 6 cucumbers laid apparently unobserved between one and three starboard harbour entrances. At same time 9 air craft delivered dive-bombing attacks on 2 groups of ships resulting in large explosion of a ship's magazine in one group and at least one ship on fire in the other. Not possible to observe full extent of damage but evidently considerable. Some A/A fire but all air-craft returned.
Subsequent R.A.F. reconnaissance reports 2 destroyers probably tankers on fire and 2 large destroyers out of action. One Gent shadower shot down by Pulmar 1050/17.

Operation off Libyan coast night 17/18 nothing to add to my 2239/18 except that LADYBIRD passed through a small controlled minefield about 10° (? 2 miles) of Sollum. Mines appeared to be small anti-boat mines and no damage was caused though about 40 were blown up.

In view of insufficient destroyers KENT replaced HAMILLES and was ordered to attack Bardia instead of Sollum. She was however, torpedoed before bombardment could be carried out.

/HASTY.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Contd.

HASTY screening ILLUSTRIOUS and VALIANT sighted a torpedo track in position 033° 37' N., 025° 20' E., at 1940/17: a very prompt counter attack was made on the submarine with reasonable chance of success. (C. in C., Med. 2925/19)

East Indies

B.N. 5. — Departures 0345Z, LEANDER, PARRAMATTA INDUS with Aden ships for B.N. 5., and salvage vessel PROTECTOR towing submarine X.3. 0230Z, CHAKDINA for patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0351Z/19)

Raider — Distress signal from COMMISSAIRE RAMEL (French 10,061 tons) gunned, at 1940 G.M.T./19) 28.25 S., 74.23 E., (Colombo, 1941Z/19, Admiral, Colombo, 2022/19, C. in C., E.I. 2052Z/19)

French Evacuees — Consul Djibuti says French may shortly ask to evacuate 150 persons for medical reasons and on account of wounds from Djibuti to Madagascar in French armed naval tanker ELORN. Many evacuees believed to be anti-British. Presume no objection, it being accepted that ELORN will probably return to Djibuti with stores and provisions. (C. in C., E.I. to Admty., 0440Z/19)

Suspicious Vessel — My 1410/19/8. Suspicious vessel believed German SCHEBEK. Cancel para one. (C. in C., E.I., 0540Z/19)

Personnel for Egypt. — Your 1943/14 and A.C.N.B. 1053/16. Suggest DUNERA from Fremantle and FELIX ROUSSEL from Bombay if found suitable, failing this LANCASHIRE in B.N. 6, on completion of disembarkation Port Sudan. (S.S.T.O., India, to D. of S.T., 1503Z/19)

B.N. 5A — My 1248/18. KANIMBLA in addition to COLOMBO will escort from Bombay to Aden. (C. in C., E.I., 1302Z/19 to N.Z.N.B.)

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Convoy Code Titles

Request you will propose code titles for:-
(a) Returning W.S. series Convoys.
(b) Durban to Mombasa troop convoy movements. (D.O.D. (F) 1903/19 to C. in C., E.I.)

SUMATRA

Following received 2040 G.M.T./19 Netherlands Admiralty London and Batavia from SUMATRA. Your 1946/16 economical speed to Sunda Strait. That will leave small reserve 250 tons of fuel for action. Possibly refuel Oosthaven necessary. Thence to Sourabaya. Regard possibility of raider East of longitude 080° fuel depot ship Cocos Is. necessary. 1952/19 -Ends. Request you pass to Dutch authorities concerned. (C. in C., E.I. 2140/19)

China

Dutch Submarines

Your 0940/18 re- orders for Dutch submarines, to operate against and attack German raider. (C. in C., E.I.)

American & West Indies

Transports

Probable berth sailings referred to in para 4 of Admty. 1631/17, 30/9 to early November. (D. of S.T., 2219/19 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

Escorts

Your 1202/18. Intention of Admty. 1631/17 that these fast liners should each sail separately, not in convoy, advantage being taken of sailings of ex-American destroyers to act as ocean escorts. Admty. agree with C. in C., A.W.I., 1901/18 as to undesirability of detaching CARADOC for this duty, nor is it possible, with imminent threat of invasion, to release a cruiser from home waters (D.O.D. (F) to C.N.S., Ottawa, 2326/19)

/Raider.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Raider. Attack on CYCLOPS

CYCLOPS sighted at 0900/2 enemy raider type EMIL RICHTER about 9000 tons sighted on horizon steering east. CYCLOPS altered course north raider altered course due south disappearing below horizon then seems to have turned back and followed out of sight until dark, tactics similar to case of BEAULIEU in August. About 2100 closed to range one mile. Position 28.10 N., 26.03 W., Attacked by heavy bombardment and machine gun fire for 20 minutes then fired torpedo. CYCLOPS foundered papers lost chief wireless operator killed. Raider's motor boat collected crew from sea but two believed to be injured and drowned. Captain, chief officer, third engineer, drifted and were rescued by YOLANDE now at Covenas. (Bermuda, 2300/19)

Australia

U.S. 5A.

Your 1023/16 and C. in C., E.I. 1256/17 War Office and D. of S.T. agree with proposed arrangements. Request you concert escort arrangements with C. in C., E.I. for this movement, to be referred to as Convoy U.S. 5A., taking into consideration projected movement of 7th Australian Division in Convoy U.S. 6. (D.O.D. (F) 1734/19 to A.C.N.B.)

New Caledonia Allegiance

Following from Sautot for Gen. de Gaulle. Following on my telegram 19/9. Lieut. Col.Denis has yielded to force represented by several thousands of your armed adherents and by cruiser ADELAIDE, which remained outside Inner Harbour. Capt. Toussaint De Quievrecourt, of French sloop DUMONT D'URVELLE is obstinately resisting. (A.C.N.B., 18552/19)

Commonwealth Govt. informed that New Caledonia has declared for de Gaulle, who has appointed M. Sautot, hitherto Resident Commissioner in New Hebrides, to be Governor of New Caledonia and High Commissioner in Western Pacific, in place of Colf. Denis, who surrendered this evening. M. Sautot landed in New Caledonia early this morning. (The Times Melbourne Correspondent, 19/9, Times, 20/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.9.1940.
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LUTZOW — Arrived Salonika 17/9 to load Bauxite for Trieste. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1150/19)

MUNCHEN — At Callao, having docked, is proceeding bunkers 700 tons. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2134/18)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BALENA
BALDELLA — Trawlers. Reliable report from Horta, about to sail for unknown destination (S.O.I., Gibraltar 1747/19, V.C. Horta, 1215/19)

FRANCAVILLA — Left 18/9 for Genoa. (Berna, 1258/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.19.1940.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Reports of Attacks

By 1743/17 paras 2 and 3. In event of damage preventing a ship torpedoed making these signals the ship next astern is to make them. (D.T.D. 1805/19)

SAINT AGNES (Torpedoed 14/9)

Report received that EXOCHORDA picked up 64 survivors from SAINT AGNES at 1745Z/14 approx. 200 miles E. of St. Miguel, Azores. Survivors reported their ship sunk by gunfire from submarine probably Italian, which had chased for 2 days. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1153/19)

MARINA
CITY OF BENARES
(Torpedoed 17/9)

Report numbers and names of Children survivors if an when W/T silence can be broken. (D.O.D. (H) to HURRICANE, 1104/19)

ALMIRANTE CARVALHA

Spanish trawler torpedoed 0155/19 by large submarine by appearence of crew apparently Italian about 15 miles N. of Cabo Villano. All hands but one lost (Juyatt, Coruuna, 1800/19)

Submarines Reported

Nature of today's W/T traffic makes it probable that U-Boats are active in northern part of North Sea. (D.D.I.C. to C. in C., H.F., 2300/19)

Indications that U-Boats may be operating in Western Approaches to Channel, Land's End, and Brest. (C. in C., W.A., 2123/19)

0352

55.30 N., 56.30 N., 20° W or farther W indefinite position (D.S. 380)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian. Still no information.
German. No indication of change except that the U/B far out had moved to 57 degrees 20' N., 20 degrees 16' W., by 1758/18. One is in vicinity of 58 degrees N. 16 degrees W. (D.D.I.C. 1246/19)

S/M's Attacked..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.8.1940.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

Treatment of Submarines

Admty. instructions which replace all previously issued for treatment of submarines in area north of Equator east of 45° W., and west of 90° E., and in area south of Equator west of 30° W., and West of 90° E. (Air Ministry to Commands, 1851/19)

MOST SECRET

20.9.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation D.T. — FURIOUS, BERWICK and NORFOLK, escorted by 3 destroyers left Scapa p.m. today to attack shipping at Trondheim early on 22/9.

Attacks on Enemy Shipping — Agreement with the Air Ministry has been reached regarding the areas within which shipping in Home Waters may be attacked by aircraft.

INNISHDU — Reported total loss with 4 hands as result of explosion, cause not established at 2001/20.

Preparations for Invasion — A considerable concentration of vessels is reported at Trondheim

British Air Operations

Hampdens attacked the Old and New Aqueducts of the Dortmund-Ems Canal last night; one burst was seen on the # structure of the Aqueduct.

Attacks on shipping and barges at Ostend, though hampered by bad weather were carried out successfully. Shipping was also attacked off Kaap Hoofd, but results were not observed.

At 1500 today a Blenheim on reconnaissance bombed two E-Boats off Le Havre, without success. Two Ansons bombed a 12,000 ton merchant vessel and a 6000 to 8000 ton tanker off Ushant, without success. Another Anson attacked a merchant vessel in St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, but results were not observed.

Enemy Air Operations

A small coasting vessel of about 100 tons was sunk with all hands by 2 bombs.

SS TRITO (Dutch 1057 tons) was sunk, probably by a bomb, this evening in the western part of the English Channel.

Damage was caused at Deptford by air attack last night. Lowestoft was bombed early this morning, but no dama e was caused.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Hampdens last night laid mines successfully off Verdon in the Gironde Estuary.

Enemy aircraft carried out minelaying last night off the east coast. Two magnetic mines were dropped at Ipswich one of which exploded.

One more magnetic mine has been detonated at Plymouth.

South Atlantic

French Cruisers

GLOIRE (see 19/9) eventually agreed to return to Casablanca, escorted by AUSTRALIA. GEORGES LEYGUES and MONTCALM continued to proceed north westward, shadowed by CUMBERLAND and a Walrus aircraft from Bathurst; the French ships entered Dakar at 0550 and CUMBERLAND returned to Freetown at 0005/21)

A French escort ship of ELAN class was sighted this morning east of Gibraltar, proceeding towards the Straits. Air patrol is being maintained to provide warning of movements of French naval units from Toulon or Oran westward through the Straits.

Operation "Menace"

This operation has been postponed 24 hours. BRIDGEWATER with convoy M.S. was ordered to reverse course for the appropriate time.
BARHAM, FORTUNE, FURY arrived at Freetown at 0600 today, and S.O. Force M. in DEVONSHIRE with INGLEFIELD, GREYHOUND and ESCAPADE two hours later. The flag of S.O. Force M. and M.O. were transferred from DEVONSHIRE to BARHAM.

Mediterranean

Shipping

A Malta Shipping Committee has been formed at Alexandria to coordinate all requirements of supplies for Malta.

Air Attack on Matruh.

60 enemy bombers escorted by 12 fighters attacked Matruh today. An Army petrol dump was fired and damage caused to M.T. vehicles and the railway line. AA guns shot down one bomber.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Air Raids on Berbera & Assab

Blenheims today attacked Berbera and Assab Harbour; results at Assab were not observed.

Wellesleys dropped bombs at Mersa Taclai (140 miles North of Massawa) and at Gura:

Raider

SS. COMMISSAIRE RAMEL reported being attacked by a raider at 1948Z/19 in the southern part of the Indian Ocean 1000 miles S.E. of Mauritius. ARAWA has been ordered to search and NEPTUNE is returning to Mauritius to fuel.

Convoy B.N.5. Attacked by A/C

Two enemy air attacks were made today on Convoy B.N. 5. with troops and supplies for Suez in the southern part of the Red Sea. SS BHIMA was damaged and was taken in tow for Aden by SS ASHBURY.

ConvoyB.N. 5½

Owing to trouble in SS ORMONDE Convoy B.N. 5½ has been delayed 24 hours.

Italian Submarine

X 2 arrived at Aden in tow of PROTECTOR this morning.

China

SS MARIE MOLLER (British) was fired at and hit by a Japanese warship at 1300 today at Haimen. DURBAN has been ordered to investigate and, as a first step to demand the release of the ship.

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

20.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command. Notice for steam. Air reconnaissance unsatisfactory. Cruisers, Destroyers and Corvettes remain at half an hour's notice till 0900/20. (C.-in-C., Nore, 0607/20).

Chatham Gun Defences. A/M. 1936/2. Expect complete mounting of guns of 5.5-inch Battery at St. Margarets on 23/9. (O.I.C. Chatham, No.2. Gun Mounting Party 1127/20 to Admty).

Shipping along, Dutch, French and Belgian Coasts. Greatest importance is attached to discovering whether ships and barges proceeding West along Dutch, Belgium and French Coasts are laden or light. Request low altitude obliques may be taken of these craft whenever favourable opportunity occurs. (Air Ministry 1805/20 to C.C.).

Burning Oil as Invasion Defence. Admty. 1847/16. Early report to be forwarded stating Ports at which it is proposed to instal this form of defence. (V.C.N.S.1900/20 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth, W.A., Nore, Rosyth and V.A. Dover).

Movements.

A.P. Patrols. For 20/9. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 0915/20 to Admty).

Northern Patrol. Cancel my 0945/13. Trawler positions. (SONT.0931/20 to F.O.C.N.P.).

D.26. VELOX. Approved for Destroyers of 26th Div. to be refitted one at a time in U.K. VELOX is being sailed with Convoy H.G.44 and C.-in-C., W.A. requested to sail her to Chatham on her arrival in U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1227/20 to C.-in-C., W.A.).

Harwich. Disposition of Corvettes for night 20/21. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1231 and 1852/20 to C.-in-C., Nore).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

20.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Orkneys.	Movements for night 20/21. (A.C.O.S.1531/20 and 2031/20). Trawler Line 20/9. (A.C.O.S.1536/20).
Dover.	Patrols for night 20/21. (V.A.Dover 1535/20).
VENETIA	Carry out full calibre Night Firing in arranged position at 2100/20. CATTISTOCK will R/V at Aldeborough L.V. at 1900. (Capt. D.21 1555/20 to VENETIA).
D.21.	Movements for 21/9. (Capt. D.21 1900/20 to C.-in-C., Nore).

Operations.

Iceland.	A/S Trawler LORD LLOYD arrived. (N.O.I.C., ICELAND 1015/20 to Admty).
Start Point.	A Patrol is to be established tonight by A/S trawlers from 50° 5' N. 3° 40' W. to 50° 20' N. 3° W. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1447/20 to N.O.I.C., Dartmouth).
Channel Patrol.	Tonight 20th. MACKAY, VOLUNTEER, VISCOUNT, VANOC patrol Eastward to Lydd. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1527/20 to Admty).
Trondheim. (Operation D.T.)	Admty 1111/20. para.7. BERWICK, NORFOLK and FURIOUS escorted by 3 Destroyers will arrive at 64° 30' N. 7° 50' E. at 0230/22 and will operate near there before retiring Westward. (A.C.O.S.1831/20 to H.Q.C.C.).
Operation ACTIVE.	3 Dutch Schoots, manned by Royal Marines and equipped as Anti-E. Boats, will be operated by C.-in-C., Nore. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1903/20 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth, W.A. and V.A. Dover).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

20.9.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TRIBUNE	Expect arrive Falmouth 0830/20. (TRIBUNE 0004/20 to C.-in-C., W.A.).
H.43	AMBROSE PARE will R/V with you at 0630/21 two miles South of St. Catherines for inward Escort. (Capt.S.5. 1031/20 to H.43).
Attack on Enemy Convoy at 0448/16.	Report by H.49. (S.O. S/Ms. Harwich. 1107/20 to V.A.S.).
Admty. 1833/7/7.	Movements 21/9 in Greenock Area. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1442/20).
UTMOST.	Intend sail at 1600/22 for Area S.3. Route on surface. (S.5. 1459/20 to Admty).
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/21. (V.A.S.1623/20 and 2209/20).
Admty. 1532/8.	L.25 will be exercising in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M./21. (A.C.O.S.1627/20 to Admty). L.27 and H.43 on Patrol D.4. and W.2. respectively TALISMAN proceeded 1730 to relieve Patrol W.2 (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1810/20 to Admty).

British Air Activity.

Instructions to A/C as to attacks on Shipping.	In North Sea, Bay of Biscay, English Channel, Swedish and Spanish Territorial Waters. These to supersede all previous instructions. (V.C.N.S.1111/20 to Cs.-in-C.).
Patrol H.C.	A.C.O.S.1818/19. Times for Patrol 20 to 23/9 inclusive. (Hatston 1201/20 to A.C.O.S.)
Dutch Coast.	Available A/c of 22 Sqdn. armed with torpedoes to attack tonight 20/21 shipping outside Helder or suitable targets along coast Flushing to Cuxhaven as in my A. P./429/19/9. (H.Q.C.C. 1507/20 to 16 Group).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

20.9.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Glasgow Balloon Barrage. Request Air Ministry be asked to authorise A.C.C. to adjust existing Balloon Sites to cover existing gap. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow 1736/20 to Admty).

Rosyth Air Searches. For 21/9. (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 1800/20).

Trelawney Balloon Defences. Balloon Command has proposed verbally to transfer 11 vessels for Water-borne sites from Trelawney to Belfat. As Belfast Sites are being provided, request you consider retention of water-borne sites at Trelawney. (D. of L.D. 1921/20 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Lowestoft. At 0537, ten H.E. Bombs between Patrols Depot and Corton, some in sea. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0615/20 to Admty).

Deptford. Details of damage during air-raid night 19/20. (S.R.V.Y. Deptford 0735/20).

SUSSEX. Condition at 1700/20. F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2245/20 to Admty).

Mining.

S.N. Operations. C.-in-C., H.F's 1015/19. Suggest anti-submarine screen of fast trawlers with one additional vessel fast enough to regain Sqdn. after taking over any contact made by trawlers. Alternatively I am prepared to operate in S.N.Forty Series Area without a screen except when U-boats are known to be in the area. (R.A.M.L. 1134/20 to Admty).

Mines dropped inland. R.A.F. Debden reports magnetic mine, cylinder 8 ft. by 2 ft. diam. dropped by parachute night 19/20 located at Sudbury. Another dropped near Stowmarket not yet found. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1208/20 to Admty).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

20.9.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Off Brighton. My 1507/19. WOLVERINE reports underwater explosion at 0020/20 in 50° 22' N. 0° 10' E. No surface craft seen, but a White Flare about 4 miles to Southward. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1235/20 to Admty).

Scapa Flow. My 1905/3. Following areas in the flow, and also Switha Sound, are considered clear; other parts of Flow still suspect. There is a German mine in the Cantick minefield and one suspected in Water Sound, one mile W. of Burray Pier. Hoy Sound not yet swept and QZY 133 remains in force. (A.C.O.S.1240/20 to C.-in-C., H.F.).

North of Lundy Island. A/S trawler BEDFORDSHIRE sank a mine at 1130/19 in 51° 21' 30" N. 4° 39' W. Mine described. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1257/20 to Admty).

Operation P.R. Mines off Flushing. Your 2027/19. Request you include orders to ensure that Corvettes and destroyers do not make contact during withdrawal. Weather permitting a Unit of 70 ft. M.T.Bs. will be operating to S.W. clear of Corvettes, and these can be called on if Corvettes need their help. (C.-in-C., Nore 1300/20 to F.O.I.C., Harwich).

Fast Minesweepers. 7 Fast Minesweepers on front of 5 miles wi will be in 52° 10' N. 2° 38' E. at 0600/21 sweeping on course 270° at 12 Kts. and arriving Aldeburgh L.F. at 0900. Code Word ADAPT. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/20 to Admty).

Gironde. Off Ile de Re. PORPOISE laid mines in 46° 24' N. 2° W. (F.O.S. 2146/20 to CACHALOT).

TRITO Mined in 50° 22' N. 2° 50' W. (Land's End Radio 2150/20).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Medway. My 1545/19. Movements in Medway now resumed. (C.-in-C., Nore 2249/20 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Zeebrugge, Dunkirk, Blankenberg, Gravelines. PRU Sortie at 1525/20. (PIU 0001/21 to N.I.D.).

2 Convoys off Ushant. At 1220, one large M/v, one Destroyer and 7 Escort vessels in 48° 33' N. 5° 3' W and 9 M/Vs. in 48° 6' N. 5° 15' W. (Plymouth ACHQ 0930/20 to Admty). (F.O.S.1147/20 and 1426/20). (D.D.I.C. 2116/20 to Cs.-in-C.)

Gironde 10/9 and 11/9. Report by TAKU. (TAKU 1035/20 to C.-in-C., W.A.).

Boulogne. At 0935/20 PRU Sortie shows 5 vessels torpedo boats or possibly Destroyers, 2 miles South of Boulogne steering Northerly at high speed, and again at 1040/20 off Calais steering N.E. (PIU 1545/20 to N.I.D.).

Cherbourg. On 20/9. (PRU St. Eval 1700/20 and PIU.2256/20).

Flushing. At 0325/20 about 100 barges dispersed. (H.A.B.C. Summary No.436).

Rotterdam, Hook Antwerp. P.R.U. Sortie at 1630/20. Steamers and Barges.(P.I.U.0400/21).

Miscellaneous.

A further supply of six tugs for use in River Clyde is now essential. Scarcity of tugs is causing delay every day. Suitable dimensions, length about 100 ft. H.P.600 to 1,300.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1836/20 to Admty).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

KING CITY — British collier. Tons. Overdue at Singapore since 2/9 and probably lost. (A.S. Singapore 0520/20 to Adty.)

HYLTON — (British 5197 tons). Townsville, Queensland 11/8 due Panama 11/9 arrived 19/9. (D.S. 382).

BRITISH FREEDOM — (Tanker 6985 tons) Abadan 18/8 due Cape Town 12/9, overdue. (D.S. 381).

BRITISH COMMANDER — My 0416/27/8. Overdue at Abadan from Cape Town since 12/9. (C. in C. East Indies 0606Z/20 to Adty.)

Shipping

Convoys

OB.217 — Two A/S trawlers from Belfast and OTTAWA from R.V. at 0730/22 (C. in C., W.A. 1103/20).

FS.35 — Reported in Barrow Deep. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1221/20).

OB.216 — Route (C. in C., W.A. 1600/20).

WN.16 — Arrived 1230/20. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1242/20).

MT. — N.C.S.O. Methil's 1102/20. Suggest term MT be abolished and that south bound convoys should start as FS from Methil. (D.T.D., 1549/20 to C. in C., Rosyth).

OB.219 — Route. (D.T.D., 1416/20).

FS. & FN — Forecast of sailings. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0015/20).

HX and SC. — Your 1950/19. Concur. (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1548/20).

Routes — For present, routes for ships from dispersal point to destination should not pass through an area bounded by 56°N.,58°N.,20°W. & 25°W. (D.T.D., 1550/20).

MOST SECRET

20.9.1940.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Ammunition — Adty. 1915/16. Shell required, details (S.O.Force H. 0911/20)

Air R.C. of Gibraltar — One Aircraft reconnoitred Gibraltar 0845/20 and was driven off by A.A. Fire. (F.O.C.N.A. 1105/20)

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces.

Your 2306. Following message from French ship in reply to para-phrase of Admty 1754/19. I assure you that in no case will I allow my cruisers (? to) pass under control of Germans. (CUMBERLAND 0026N/20 to F.O.Force M)

Walrus .96 is to carry out reconnaissance patrol from 0530/20 to locate (?) (2) French cruisers of GALISSONIERE Class presumed proceeding Dakar. Probable position 0530 14° N., 17° 30' W. CUMBERLAND in contact and shadowing at 1955 in position 9° 43' N., 16° 24' W course 325° speed 30 knots. Aircraft to report to S.O.Force M and CUMBERLAND if sighted. Aircraft should not approach within (? 20) miles of French territory and should endeavour to remain unobserved but report if cruisers enter Dakar would be valuable. French aircraft patrols may be met. Walrus to remain based at Bathurst for the present. (C in C., S.A. 0029 N /20 to Actg. Gov. Bathurst)

French cruiser stopped in position 009° 40' N., 015° 40' W., asks permission to proceed Conakri to repair damage to main engine. Have replied can only (?allow) her to proceed to Freetown escorted. (F.O.Force M. 0040N/20 to Adty.)

My 0026N. Am continuing Parley. (CUMBERLAND 0052N/20 to S.O. Force M.)

Have suggested sea R.V. to meet your representative. French Commander ineligible for this (2 corrupt groups) and is communicating with his chief. (?CUMBERLAND 0112N/20 to S.O.Force M)

/My 0040.....

MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces-Contd.

My 0040. (? French Cruiser GLOIRE) has accepted the option given to her of returning to Casablanca and is proceeding -escorted by AUSTRALIA. (F.O.Force M. 0134/20 to Adty.)

In view of situation do you wish me to leave harbour. (ARK ROYAL 0145/20 to S.O.Force M.)

ARK ROYAL and RESOLUTION screened by FAULKNOR FORESTER FORESIGHT and ECHO are to escort group 2 which is to sail as soon as possible after 0600. FORTUNE and FURY are to join group 2 as soon as they have oiled. BARHAM and DEVONSHIRE screened by INGLEFIELD ESCAPADE and GREYHOUND will sail as soon as possible to join group 2. (F.O.Force M 0224/N/20 to Force M.)

Your 0026/20 and Admiralty's 1754/19. If you consider it now impracticable prevent those ships entering Dakar return to Freetown at maximum possible speed refuel. Report action taken. (F.O.Force M. 0246N/20 to CUMBERLAND)

Your 0246. Probably impracticable to prevent entry into Dakar. Am still trying to persuade force to follow example of damaged GLOIRE and proceed to Casablanca. Will shadow till destination certain and then return to Freetown at maximum speed. (CUMBERLAND 0421N/20 to S.O.Force M.)

Heavy rain visibility 1 mile. Have lost touch temporarily. (CUMBERLAND 0437N/20)

Regained touch my position 194° Cape Verde 36 enemy bear 033° 10 miles. (CUMBERLAND 0550N/20 to S.O.Force M)

0550 enemy entering Dakar. (CUMBERLAND 0601N/20)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces-Contd.

Situation when touch regained 0530 after heavy rains enemy fine on my bows distant 10 miles from me and 25 miles from Dakar. Following is text of my last signal to French Commander before touch lost. Begins. Your colleague with engine trouble has now promised to return to Casablanca accompanied by one of mine. Can you give me an assurance that you will do the same and I will accompany you for part of the voyage. 0340. Ends. This may effect situation but I consider GLOIRE would have reported to French Authorities and hoped to persuade energetic French forces to follow her example. Returning 29 knots to refuel.
(CUMBERLAND 0706/20 to S.O.Force M.)

Flag S.O. Force M. and H.Q. are being transferred to BARHAM now. (S.O.Force M 0747N/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

Report position course and speed of GLOIRE periodically. She must be directed clear of convoys proceeding in accordance with M.N.S.8. para 7, 9 and 11 and M.N.S. 9. (S.O.Force M. 0742N/20 to AUSTRALIA)

From M.A. begins at urgent request of de Gaulle date has been deferred 1 day to 23/9. (S.O.Force M. 0831/20 to Adty.)

My position 009° 46' 05° 51' W. GLOIRE in company. Course and speed since parting company with DEVONSHIRE 295° 5 knots. (AUSTRALIA 0840Z/20 to S.O. Force M.)

Reference M.N. 351 9 D one postponed one day inform Cdrs and reverse course of convoy now for appropriate time. (S.O.Force M. 0847/20 to BRIDGEWATER)

/Following.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces-Contd.

-Following from C.O.C.Force A addressed W.O.S.O.Force M. C. in C., S.A., Begins Naval Force under S.O.Force M. put to sea on urgent operation today. Force A. remaining Freetown pending result which may cause postponement of Menace from present date which is 22/9. Adty. 1947/14 not previously received shown today by C. in C., If reinforcements referred to join Force A. Request second brigade H.Q. be included if not already, suggest H.Q. 102 R.M. Brigade T.O.O. 1620/19. Ends. Admty. pass to W.O. (C. in C., S.A. 0935/20 to Adty.)

Lost touch B.D.V. QUANNET (BRIDGEWATER 0950Z/20 toS.O.Force M.,)

At 0900Z/20. PRIMAUGUET and Oiler 002° 43' N., 004° 06' W. course 280° 12 knots All quiet. (CORNWALL 0954/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

Arrival Freetown 0600/20 BARHAM, FORTUNE, FURY 0800 S.O.Force M. in DEVONSHIRE with INGLEFIELD GREYHOUND and ESCAPADE. (S.O.(1) Freetown, 1011/20 to Adty.)

Jaform GLOIRE that if CUMBERLAND is attacked by a submarine, you have orders to sink GLOIRE. (1st S.L. 1042/20 to CUMBERLAND)

WISHART will be near Agadir night 20/21 Sept. the returning Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128/20 to AUSTRALIA)

Maintenance of a patrol at sufficient distance to East of Gibraltar to give adequate warning of approach of French force involves (a) a strain on available destroyers and patrol craft, (b) drastic reduction of surface A/S patrol in Straits (c) danger of distant patrols being raided by Italian surface craft, as they cannot be afforded close support. In view of above request I may be informed directly it is considered that this patrol may be relaxed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130/20 to Adty.)

/My.....

MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces-Contd.

My position course and speed are 009° 49' N., 016° 01' W., 295° 10 knots. (AUSTRALIA 1135Z/20 to S.O.Force M)

Cancel my 1042/20 and substitute. AUSTRALIA inform GLOIRE that if AUSTRALIA is attacked by a submarine AUSTRALIA has orders to sink GLOIRE. (D.O.D. (F) 1138/20 to CUMBERLAND, AUSTRALIA.)

Following intercepted in plain language at 0730 G.M.T. Toulon to Bizerta addressed to 4th Squadron. The 4th cruiser division is to proceed to Dakar. (D.D.I.C. 1142/20 to C. in C., Med., F.O.C.N.A., Force H., Force M. C. in C. S.A.)

Following is substance of messages exchanged with GLOIRE begins. Understand you undertook to return to Casablanca. I am escorting you there please give me your word you will obey my route orders and will not communicate information of assistance to enemy submarines. Reply. Your message not exact I agree under Duress to proceed to Casablanca but did not accept escort will give word to follow exact route of my choosing to Casablanca provided you give me my liberty you need have no fear of submarines. Ends. I have told GLOIRE I will use force if he disobeys my orders, if he obeys my orders I receive instructions to liberate him. He has communicated route. (AUSTRALIA 11552/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

My position 1200 N 011° 21' N., 017° 35' W. course and speed 190° 29 knots. Arriving Freetown 2330 (CUMBERLAND 1201/20)

One French destroyer in position 036° 04° N., 003° 06' W., at 1055 course 270° If as appears at present she is unaccompanied by heavier ships intend to let her pass Straits after identification. (F.O.C.N.S. 1210/20 to Adty.)

/S.O.Force M.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces-Contd.

S.O.Force M, whom I have seen reports, begins:-GLOIRE on being informed by de Gaulle's Emissary by loud speaker in terms of S.O.Force M's 1012/14 made no reply except that he asked to go to Konakri for engine repairs. On being refused and ordered to Freetown he replied that he chose alternative offer to him of proceeding to Casablanca in spite of being given a guarantee of free conduct from Freetown to Casablanca later. It is considered he thereby gave an undertaking to go to Casablanca but to a question whether it was understood he would not call Dakar gave no reply. Ends.

GLOIRE is being escorted by one ship. Considered undertaking not to call Dakar in any case should be obtained and failing this GLOIRE to be informed any interference by French surface forces will be regarded as breaking agreement and result in hostile action being taken against her to disable. In fact she should agree to go to Casablanca "rescue" or "no rescue" De Gaulle considers it is greatly to advantage that up to present no guns have been fired.
(C. in C., S.A. 1253/20 to Adty.)

Your 1142/20. Is it confirmed that the fourth Cruiser Division is the Force now off Dakar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1310/20 to Adty.)

My 1155Z. Route 9 position 010° 00' 016° 35' 011° 35' 020° 00' 020° 00' thence direct to Casablanca. Present speed 12 knots probably increasing to 15 knots this evening. Position GLOIRE at 1200 zone plus 1 10?° 52' N 016° 16' W., (AUSTRALIA 1401/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

My 1142/20 Before armistice th division consisted of GLOIRE, MONTCALM and GEORGES LEGUES. It is not known if intercepted message refers to these ships or to possible reinforcements. (D.O.D. (F) 1426/20)

/My 1210.....

MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Forces-Contd.

My 1210. Vessel identified as escort ship of ŒLAN class. Her position course and speed at 1325 was 275 16 16 knots. No other vessels sighted (F.O.C.N.A. 1526/20 to Adty.)

Group one will pass through position reported at 0200 Z speed of advance 5.5. knots. (BRIDGEWATER 1635Z/20 to S.O. Force M.)

When GLOIRE is sufficiently far North to prevent her taking part in "Menace" she need not be escorted. (1st S.L. 1656/20 to S.O.Force M.)

My 1426/20. It is now considered that the 4th Cruiser Division referred to consist of the three French cruisers which have been operating from Dakar and not to reinforcements from Bizerta. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1640/20)

Area covered Spartel to Meridian of 01° 35' west Primary object of reconnaissance patrol to eastward now being carried out daily is to provide warning of movement of French Naval Units from Toulon or Oran westward through Straits. (200 Groups 1719/20 to Air Min.)

PRIMAUGUET is to be directed to steer so as to pass to the westward of 008° 00' N., 020° 00' W. in order to clear shipping route. (C. in C., S.A., 2035N/20 to CORNWALL)

H.M.Govt. will be anxious to know how Menace is progressing. Hence request frequent reports of progress. C. in C., Med. will be informed of outline of Menace on 22/9. (1st S.L. 2324/20 to S.O.Force M.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE — Owing to D/F indication of German Naval unit in the vicinity, increase speed to 18 knots and steer for 004°10' N., 017°30' W. thence to Freetown arriving 0800/23. (C. in C., S.A. 1301/20 to CARNARVON CASTLE).
Your 1031/20 and 1301/20. Transmission referred to in Simonstown's 0230/20 originated from probable U-Boat to the North Westward of Ireland. (D.D.I.C. 1756/20 to C. in C. S.A.).

French troop movements — French Adty. informs me via French N.A. troop movements will take place from Djibouti to Saigon. First sailing 26/9 for end of September, second sailing about 11/10. Ships will burn navigation lights and have painted national colours on hull and bridge. (N.A. Madrid, 1808/20).

BRUSEJARL — My 1005/18 Norwegian ship BRUSEJARL arrived Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 2235B/20).

DRAGON — Arrived 1830/20. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2351/20).

Mediterranean

Air — Correction to Air Min. 1851/19. (Air Min. 1851/20).

Operations — Following operations are intended in concert with H.Q. Western Desert.
A. LADYBIRD to cary out further bombardment of Italain positions night 21/22.
B. Four destroyers to carry out A/S sweep to westward 21st, followed by bombardment of Italian positions night 21/22 and return to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med. 1547/20).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Malta Shipping Committee

Formed at Alexandria, short title S.M.S.C. to coordinate requirements for Malta. Anticipation for next fast convoy, etc. (C. in C., Med., 1511/20).
My 1511. Request you impress on Governor running of convoy to Malta imposes heavy commitment on E. Med. Fleet. Important that requirements for all Services cut to minimum. Would like to be assured full rationing of all commodities is already in force. (C. in C., Med., 1513/20).

ELENI

Greek, 1441 tons, stopped by Italian U/B about 65' E. of Cape Spartivento, Sardinia, 0200/16, subsequently allowed to proceed. (D.S. 382).

China

KING CITY

Collier, overdue at Singapore since 2/9 probably lost. (A.S. Singapore, 0520/20).

MARIE MOLLER fired at by Japanese

Following signal received by Mollers from S.S. MARIE MOLLER 1625/20. Begins Entered Port of Haimen 0100. Struck by shell from Japanese warship at 1300, no casualties. Left Port. Detained in 28° 43' N., 121°47' E. Ends. (Two). Request your instructions before approaching Japanese observing that Haimen was notified all ports closed on 8/8/39 by Japanese (B.C.G. Shanghai number 406 8/8/1939 to Ambassador Shanghai refers).
(N.L.O. Shanghai, 0852Z/20 to C. in C., China).
N.L.O. Shanghai's 0852/20. Proceed to vicinity Haimen and if MARIE MOLLER sighted investigate circumstances keeping if possible outside territorial waters. Your must return to Hong Kong without refuelling. (C. in C., China, 1741Z/20 to DURBAN).
Your 0852/20. You should as a first step demand an explanation and his immediate release. (C. in C., China, 1743/20).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Raider	NORSEMAN reports intercepting raider report signal at 0111 G.M.T. hardly audible jammed local station, her position 14° 33' S., 38° 42' W., (Portishead Radio 0111/20)
A.P. 1.	Date of expected arrival at Suez (C.inC., 1028Z/20)
BRITISH COMMANDER	Due Abadan 12/9 from Capetown, overdue My 0416/27/8 refers (C. in C., E.I. 0606Z/20)
X.2.	(S/M ex Italian) Arrived in tow salvage vessel PROTECTOR at 0600Z (N.O.I.C. Aden 0801Z/20)
DIAMOND	Left 0745Z to join A.P.1. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0808Z/20)
SHROPSHIRE	Left 0800Z for Colorado. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0808Z/20)
ANTENOR	Left 0135Z escorting ORMONDE (S.O.I., Bombay, 1131Z/20)
COMMISSAIRE RAMEL Attacked by raider	ARAWA proceed forthwith to position 022° S., 065° E at best possible speed (C. in C., E.I. 0422/20 to Force V.)
Orders to ARAWA, NEPTUNE	My 2052/19 Following dispositions being made. (1) ARAWA to position 022° S 065° E due p.m./21. Then probably cruise to westward. (11) NEPTUNE if fuel permits to Mauritius, otherwise to Durban for fuel (C. in C., E.I. 0454/20 to Adty.)
	Raider reported gunning COMMISSAIRE RAMEL in position 28° 25' S. 74° 23' E at 1948Z/19. (D.D.I.C. 0835/20 to A.C.N.B. etc.,)
	My 0454/20. Para two NEPTUNE will arrive at Mauritius daylight 22/9. (C. in C., E.I. 1352/20)

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Convoy B.N. 5½ delayed

(1) Owing to disaffection amongst troops in ORMONDE B.N. 5½ escorted by KANIMBLA was sailed without her at about 1230Z/19. COLOMBO joined KANIMBLA later.
(2) ORMONDE escorted by ANTENOR sailed 0130Z/20.
(3) Leading group has been turned round and two groups will rendezvous about 0800Z/20 when ANTENOR will return to Bombay.
(4) B.N. 5½ programme will be run 24 hours late. (C. in C., E.I. 0408Z/20)

Owing to trouble in ORMONDE Convoy B.N. 5½ delayed 24 hours. R.V. with Force 4 now 012° 045° 1530Z/25. Red Sea R.V. 013° 36' 039° 52' 0500Z/27. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0404Z/20 C. in C., E.I.)

CAP VARELLA

Reference S.O. (I) Singapore 0209/19 I presume French CAP VARELLA can proceed anyhow as Aden pending decision on whether or not troops will be withdrawn (C. in C., E.I., 0952Z/20 to Adty.)

Air Attacks on Berbera and Assab

Daily Intelligence Summary No 102 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours to 1500 20/9. One Blenheim 2315/19/ hits in area results not known unopposed. One Blenheim attacked Assab harbour 0030 results unknown unopposed. 1 Blenheim 4 fighter patrol over A.F.I. 1430 to 1780. 3 Blenheims maintained fighter patrol over B.N. 5 0330 to 1200.

Air Attacks on Convoy B.N. 5.

2 enemy air attacks convoy B.N. 5. first at 0740 8 miles S.E. Abu Ail SS BHIMA disabled extent damage and casualties unknown. Fighter failed to intercept due cloud. Second at 1320 when fighter detained Kamaran no details. 1 Blenheim 4 fighter patrol SS BHIMA 1300 to 1600 No casualties all times G.M.T. 1758/20.

Convoy B.N. 5. Bombed

H.M.S.LEANDER reports B.N. 5. bombed at 0740Z. 20th. SS. BHIMA damaged. At present stopped in position 013° 57' N. 042° 53' E. CALEDON proceeding to stand by. (C. in C., E.I. 1016Z/20) My 1016/20. BHIMA now in tow of ASHBURY returning to Aden speed 3 knots Four and five holds flooded to water level. No steam. Weather calm. Casualty one man killed none seriously injured. CALEDON in company. Salvage Tug PROTECTOR proceeding to assistance. (C. in C., E.I. 1304Z/20)
My 1016/20 B.N.5 again bombed at 1320Z 5 aircraft. No damage. One enemy aircraft

(probably damaged (C. in C., E.I. 1942Z/20)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

New Caledonia

My 1855Z/19. Following received from ADELAIDE.
Sautot's formal assumption of powers at 0430Z/19 is confirmed. Ends.
(A.C.N.B. 1505/20 to Adty.)

Following message for General de Gaulle, begins:- Following on my tel 379 sent direct. Col. Benis refused to submit to my authority and transmit function to me also refused to collaborate as military commandant. As he has also by circular invited civil servants and all military forces to refuse obedience to me I have immediately imposed on this superior officer compulsory residence in the interior of the Island. Request you to dismiss him. Capt. Toussaint de Quievrecourt, C.O. French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, declares same intentions. I propose to deport him, command of his ship passing to second in command. Signed by Sautot. Ends. (Consul, Noumea, 2015/20).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.9.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NORDERNEY — Only signs of activity among Axis ships in Brazil at present is in NORDERNEY, Para, whose crew recently reinforced by one officer 6 men ex WINDHUK. NORDERNEY has no cargo and very little coal but might attempt to reach Maranham where Italian ANTONIO LIMONCELLI has cargo of coal. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1715/20, N.C.S.O. Para, 1130/20).

KLIO — Departure presumably coasting eastward (Santander, 1220/20).

725 — Tampico reports her most probably sailing this afternoon, (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1214/20).

LUVSEE — Arrived Zelenika 17/9 to load 300 tons bauxite for Trieste. (D.S. 381).

ODER — Had a fire on board at Massawa 10/9. Some cargo damaged. (D.S. 381).

MUNCHEN — At Callao, was docked 17/9. (D.S. 381).

Italian merchant ships.

SPEZIA — Information received (Grade A) Chief Engineer Merchant Ship SPEZIA declares New Captain arriving here tomorrow ship will sail on or about beginning of next week. Valencia will report movements Gibraltar has been informed. (Alicante, 2100/20).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BALENA
BARDELLA
PROCESPADA

My 1215/19 Both steam trawlers together with third steam trawler PROCESPADA sailed for High Seas at 0130/20 G.M.T. (V.C.Horta 0130/20 S.O.(I) Gib. 0823/20)

HELENA

My 1305/18 and 0130/20. (B) 2 shipping companies clerks state immediately after departure of trawler Italian Vice Consul left for Pico in a motor boat to embark in motor schooner HELENA bound for Ponta Delgarda. Will probably call at Terceira for a few hours Friday evening and may reach Ponta Delgarda afternoon 21/9. It is estimated that trawler took stores for 13 days. (V.C.Horta 1800/20)

DIANA

Arrived Fiume 20/9. Port of departure unknown (Susak 1900/20)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

THEOPHILE GAUTIER

THEOPHILE GAUTIER was intercepted by Sunderland flying boat South of Cyprus p.m./18 and ordered to proceed to Haifa. Ship altered course to proceed but did not go to Haifa and arrived Beirut 0930/19 No ship was available to intercept her. (C. in C., Medtn. 1207/20)

MOST SECRET

20.9.1940.
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

NEW SEVILLA — (British Oil Refining ship 13,801 tons) in convoy O.B. 216 torpedoed, sinking (NEW SEVILLA 2038/20, SCARBOROUGH 2020/20) VANQUISHER to attack submarine. Two trawlers being sent from N.N. 6 to assist (C. in C., W.A., 2123/20 to SCARBOROUGH) OTTAWA to hunt (A.C.W.A. 2327/20) Sank in 55° 48' N 7° 22' W., Have 28 survivors, including one seriously injured. (VANQUISHER 0905/21) Master reports all crew picked up (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1037/21)

CALCUTTA — Torpedoed 25 miles West of Tory Island sinking (CALCUTTA 2024/20) SUPERMAN (tug) Sailed to assist CALCUTTA reported torpedoed 55° 55' N., 7° 11' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2225/20) SALVONIA and SEAMAN (tugs) sailed to assist ship torpedoed 55° 54' W 7° 24' W., (N.O.i/c Greenock 2340/40)

LOTOS
Torpedoed 15/9. — 8 Survivors from SS LOTOS who was torpedoed 15 miles N.W. of Rockall at 2340/15 landed at Borve Barra at 1730/20. Master reports another lifeboat with 9 hands still missing. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1850/20 2019/20)
In Convoy S.C. 3. bound from Dalhousie to Tyne with timber (D.B. 382)

ALMIRANTE JOSE DE CARRANZA — Spanish trawler, torpedoed apparently by Italian U/B, 0155/19, 43.30 N., 08.50 W., off Corunna. (D.S. 382)

D.L.HARPER — Tanker (12233 tons) Torpedoed, reported sunk, survivors in VANQUISHER (.S. 383)

Submarines Reported

1229 — By D.F. 58° 30' N., 18° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1324/20)

0010 — About 56° to 58° N., about 25° E (Approx 500 miles W by N of Bloody Foreland (D.S. 381)

0230 — Transmission referred to in Simonstown's 0230/20 originated from probable U-B to N.W. of Iceland (D.D.I.C. 1756/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.9.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

NEW SEVILLA — (British Oil Refining ship 13,801 tons) in convoy O.B. 216 torpedoed, sinking (NEW SEVILLA 2038/20, SCARBOROUGH 2030/20) VAN DYCKEN to attack submarine. Two trawlers being sent from N.M. 6 to assist (C. in C., W.A., 2123/20 to SCARBOROUGH) OTTAWA to hunt (A.C.W.A. 2327/20) Sank in 55° 48' N 7° 32' W., Have 28 survivors, including one seriously injured. (VAN DYCKEN 0905/21) Master reports all crew picked up (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1037/21)

CALCUTTA — Torpedoed 25 miles West of Tory Island sinking (CALCUTTA 2024/20) SUPERMAN (tug) Sailed to assist CALCUTTA reported torpedoed 55° 55' N., 7° 11' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2225/20) SALVONIA and SEAMAN (tugs) sailed to assist ship torpedoed 55° 54' W 7° 24' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2340/20)

LOTOS
Torpedoed 15/9. — 8 Survivors from SS LOTOS who was torpedoed 15 miles N.W. of Rockall at 2340/15 landed at Barra Barra at 1730/20. Master reports another lifeboat with 9 hands still missing. (F.O.I/C Greenock 1850/20 2019/20)
In Convoy S.C. 3. bound from Belhousie to Ire with timber (D.S. 382)

ALMIRANTE JOSE DE CARRANZA — Spanish trawler, torpedoed apparently by Italian U/B, 0155/19, 43.30 N., 08.50 W., off Corunna. (D.S. 383)

D.L.HARPER — Tanker (13233 tons) Torpedoed, reported sunk, survivors in VAN DYCKEN (D.S. 383)

Submarines Reported

1829 — By D.F. 58° 36' N., 10° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1324/20)

0010 — About 56° to 58° N., about 25° E (Approx 500 miles W by N of Bloody Foreland (D.S. 391)

0230 — Transmission referred to in Simonstown's 0230/20 originated from probable U-B to N.W. of Iceland (D.D.I.C. 1756/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.9.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- Still no information.
German- 1 may reach Lorient tonight from the westward.
1 is still between 56° and 58° and 25° W
1 may have been in about 60° N., 15° W at 2116/19, course unknown.
No new indications of the number or positions of those in N.W. Approaches. U/Bs may be out in the Norther part of the North Sea. (D.D.I.C. 1317/20)

Submarines Attacked

By PORPOISE 16/9

0047/16 PORPOISE unsuccessfully attacked a large U-Boat in 47° 28' N., 4° 18' W. (PORPOISE 1030/20)

By Aircraft

Strip of oil attacked 56° 30' N., 8° 0' W. Nil result (A.C. 1320/20)

Escape of PERLA

Your 2300/16. All possible steps were taken. The U-boat was bombarded and bombed on 27/6 within about 12 hours of grounding and S.N.O. Red Sea Force, who was there, was confident that the boat was a total loss or at any rate out of action for months. Demolition, opposed by whole of Italian S/M PERLA's crew was considered and I submit rightly discarded taking into account ships had to return at once to meet first convoy, thereafter passage of B.N. and B.S. Convoy and reinforcements to Berbera absorbed all units of Red Sea Force, but a quick (and unfortunately inconclusive) reconnaissance ~~xxx~~ of position was able to be fitted in on 21/7 I incline to belief that boat by then had been removed if Italian prisoners' information can be accepted namely that air attack on LEANDER on 27/6 was made to assist Italian going to rescu stranded U-Boat which was subsequently floated and towed to Massawa. (C. in C., E.I. 1254X/19 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Attack on O.B. 216.

Two ships were torpedoed last night in convoy O.B. 216 in the North Western Approaches.

Preparations for Invasion

There has been a considerable increase of shipping at Rotterdam. The total is now 85 ships and about 650 barges. At Antwerp, where there has been also an increase recently, there are 47 ships and about 600 barges.
Cherbourg appears now to be almost empty, though cloud obscured parts of the harbour when the latest reconnaissance was made. Very heavy concentrations of barges was seen at Calais today.

There is evidence for the first time of merchant ships passing out of the Channel to the southward of Brest.

Submarine Patrols

Further consideration has been given tothe disposition and basing of submarines consequent on increased enemy activity between German ports and French west coast.

British Air Operations

It is reported that in the R.A.F. raid on Lorient at the beginning of September two ships, one of which was probably the DE LA SALLE of the Cie-Gle-Transatlantique, were sunk by our bombs. Both were carrying German troops and it is stated there were only 15 survivors. (Air Min. D.S. 429)

Attacks on the enemy's invasion bases and gun positions at Cape Gris Nez continued last night and also today. Two bombs which apparently failed to explode, were dropped on the oil tanks at Habstad today and made direct hits.

A Hudson on routine patrol bombed two merchant vesels of about 1000 tons at Ameland Zeegat, a direct hit being follow by a second explosion.

/Another.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations-Contd.

Another Hudson hit a 6000-8000 ton merchant vessel 2 miles south of Borkum, with incendiary bombs and is believed to have caused fire.

It is reported from a reliable source that during the raid of 17/18 Sept. 5 ships were sunk in Hamburg harbour (Air Min. D.S. 430)

Weather prevented satisfactory reconnaissance of the enemy's invasion bases today.

Enemy Air Operations

SS REGISTAN (5886 tons) was machine-gunned near Scayweather L.V. (Bristol Channel) today.

VEGA and convoy F.N. 87 were bombed today off Felixtowe.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft almost certainly took place last night off the East coast, St Abbs Head to the Tees, and from the Humber to the Norfolk coast as far as Cromer.

A parachute mine was seen to drop off the entrance of the Dee today.

South Atlantic

All sailings to northward of the Rio de Janeiro and Santos and sailings through Bahia and Victoria were stopped today on account of a raider reported close to the coast of Brazil south of Bahia on 19/9.

AUSTRALIA ceased shadowing GLOIRE early this morning, some 250 miles W.S.W of Dakar. GLOIRE has undertaken to proceed direct to Casablanca.

/CORNWALL.....

MOST SECRET

21.9.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic-Contd.

CORNWALL is still shadowing PRIMAUGUST DELHI was detached to Freetown to fuel after dark today.

Operation "Menace"

F.O.C. Force M in BARHAM, with ARK ROYAL, RESOLUTION, INGLEFIELD, FORTUNE, FORESIGHT, GREYHOUND, ECHO and ESCAPADE left Freetown at 0930 CUMBERLAND left at 1430. AUSTRALIA will join Force M. at sea tomorrow. ARK ROYAL has boiler defects which reduce her speed to 28 knots.

DEVONSHIRE, FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FURY, MILFORD and French ships COMMANDANT DOMINEY, COMMANDANT DUBOC and SAVORGNAN -DE-BRAZZA left with Convoy M.P. at 0645.

Mediterranean

Air Operations

R.A.F. today bombed the foreshore at Tobruk as a result of reconnaissances, and M.T. near Bardia, Capuzzo and Sollum were also bombed, and enemy positions at Sidi Barrani.

A Bombay also attacked shipping at Derna.

Air Raid on Alexandria

Enemy aircraft today dropped 3 bombs on the harbour at Alexandria and some incendiaries near Dekheila.

Air Attacks on A.N. 3 and LADYBIRD

C. in C., Med. reports that Convoy A.N. 3. was unsuccessfully attacked by a torpedo aircraft at 1410/13 between Crete and Alexandria; and LADYBIRD at 1640/17 west of Alexandria, by two aircraft; each of which dropped a torpedo which passed astern.

East Indies

Air Raid on Haifa and Aden

Oil tanks in the port area and Refinery were damaged in a raid on Haifa by 5 enemy aircraft early this afternoon. A.A. guns successfully prevented two separate enemy aircraft from reaching Aden today; the enemy dropped their bombs in the sea.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

China

Detention of British Ships by Japanese

The MARIE MOLLER has been released and an apology offered for firing on her Four other ships have been detained by the Japanese, though one of them was released today in addition to the MARIE MOLLER. Representations have been made in all the above cases.

America & West Indies

Five Town class destroyers left St. Johns, Newfoundland for Plymouth via Belfast today

MOST SECRET

21.9.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Orders to Submarines — Para 5 of F.S.B. one F.S.C. two and para one of F.S.D. one. Cancel reference to first reporting and then attacking what may be Invading Forces In all cases Enemy Forces can be attacked first and then reported. (V.A.S. 1251/21 to S/M's on patrol, negative S/M's on Patrol in Portsmouth Command) (C. in C., H.F. 1017/21 to V.A.S.)

Convoy Escorts — Your 1316/17. In view of their arduous work at sea propose that all convoy escorts should be at normal notice fro steam during their first two nights in harbour. (C. in C., W.A. 1939/21 to Adty)

Attacking at Night — Instructions governing the conditions under which submarines and surface craft may attack at sight in North Sea, English Channel and Bay of Biscay. Superseding all instructions previously issued. (Adty. 1212/21)

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command — Dawn Air Patrols cancelled.

Notice for Steam — Ships to remain at short notice until 0900 (C. in C., Nore, 0423/21)

Defence of Milford Haven — Items in order of priority. (Air Min. 1515/21, A.C.N.A.(H) 1508/21)

Felixtowe — Gate placed in position and working satisfactorily. (B.D.O. Felixtowe, 1300/21)

Normal Air Stations — Army Station Defence Officers to be attached, duties etc., (D. of L.D. 1641/21)

Glasgow — Re Balloon Barrage. (D. of L.D. 1730/21 to Air Min.)

New Form of Defence — Your 1900/20. Ports proposed are Grimsby, Harwich, Sheerness and Thames Haven. (C. in C., Nore, 2137/21 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

OTTAWA	Sailed as by your 2327/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0145/21 to C. in C., W.A.)
Nore Command	Dispositions for night 21/22. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/21) Day patrols and estimated movements to 1200/22 (C. in C., 1200/21)
HUGH WALPOLE	Tug 1803/20 re R.V. with SWORDFISH For DANEMAN and NORTHERN PRIDE read HUGH WALPOLE. (Capt S. 5. 1049/21)
SCIMITAR, SKATE KEPPEL, ACTIVE	To meet H.X. 72. Position. Escort LOWESTOFT. leave Convoy 2359 to meet S.C. 4. Position. Escort DEPTFORD if necessary to refuel destroyers may proceed to Lough Foyle after normal escorts have met convoys (C. in C., W.A. 1141/21)
Dover Patrols	Night 21/22. (V.ADover, 1515/21)
Orkneys	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/21)
Northern Patrol	Trawler lines occupied 21/9 (A.C.O.S. 1536/21)
SALADIN BEAGLE	Intend sailing 1959. Expect arrive Nab 0616/22 (N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, 1611/21)
Humber	Patrols night 21/22 (N.O.i/c Humber 1630/21)
Portsmouth	Night movement signal 21/22 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1647/21)
Rosyth	Arrivals and Departures 21/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1707/21) Movements tonight (C. in C., Rosyth 1644/21)
DUNEDIN	In view of U-Boat activity proceed at your best speed (C. in C., W.A. 1937/21)
MAC One	To proceed at high speed near E.Tongue Buoy. One M.T.B. from Sheerness to accompany and remain during trials. (C. in C., Nore, 2225/21)

HOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Ostend to Dunkirk

Weather permitting, one Unit of 60 foot M.T.B's is to operate close off shore between Ostend and Dunkirk to-night to destroy enemy surface Forces and be well clear of coast by daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 1202/21 to BEEHIVE)

Operation by M.T.B. 6. Cancelled

To attack shipping in Boulogne Outer Harbour 0230/22. Request bombing attack at same time as diversion. (V.A.Dover 1925/21, 1926/21) Operation not to take place. (V.C.N.S. 2336/21) Cancel my 1925/21 (V.A.Dover 2341/21)

Patrol in W.A.

BROKE, VANSITTART, BURZA patrolling Eddystone to 3° W about 30 miles from Coast. (C. in C., W.A. 1851/21) Orders Return to Plymouth by 0730/22 (C. in C., W.A. 1841/21)

Channel Patrol

Tonight WOLVERINE, WITHERINGTON, BLYSKAWICA, BULLDOG patrol eastward to limit of Portsmouth Command (C. in C., Portsmouth 1517/21) Requesting fighter protection (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1431/21)

Submarines

Positions & Movements

For 24 hours at 0700/22 (V.A.S. 1744/21)

Disposition and basing

Consequent on increased enemy activity between German ports and French west coast. A S/M to be on patrol in H one for time being. Patrol to be maintained by H 44 and H 49 working from Harwich. Refit of H. 44 to be postponed. Harwich S/M base and S/M's operating therefrom to be transferred from 3rd to 6th Flotilla. Not possible to maintain a S/M on A/S patrol off Hebrides at present. (V.A.S. 1319/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Operations

Torpedo Bombers to operate from Brest to Guernsey

The section of French coast from Brest to Guernsey is under observation by twice daily patrol of Blenheim Fighter Aircraft of 15 Group.
Offensive action against enemy shipping reported at sea off this coast can best be carried out by day by air attack. Torpedo bombers of F.A.A. would be most effective. Request such aircraft may be allotted to this operation.
Reinforcement of long range fighters for 15 Group will be necessary.
T.B. Aircraft and escort would be kept ready to fly off on receipt of report from Reconnaissance Aircraft.
Effect of successful attack on enemy coastal convoys might be considerable.
(C. in C., W.A. 1337/21 to Adty.)

Attack on Shipping off Helder

4 M/V's seen and 3 attacked with Torpedoes. Two attacks missed and results of third not observed. (H.Q.C.C. 0220/21)

Ameland

At Ameland Zeegat at 2050/20 Aircraft bombed 2 M/V's about 1000 tons. Heavy explosion and debris seen. (H.Q.C.C. 0239/21)

Patrols S.A. 4.A. and S.A. 4. B.

Cancelled on account of low visibility (C. in C., Nore 0425/21 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Patrol in Channel

One Anson carrying out midnight patrol in Channel (C. in C., W.A. 1851/21)

Air Searches

22/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1728/21)

Attacks on Convoys

Convoy of approx. 12 M.V's attacked 1440 steering North, by 2 aircraft in 50° 44' N., 1° 30' E., Results uncertain.

One aircraft attacked small passenger pleasure boat crowded with people 4 miles N.W. of Boulogne, one bomb very close.

One aircraft attacked 6 M.V's steering N. at 20 knots 5 miles S.W. of Cape Gris Nez, results not observed. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1800/21)

/Air rescue.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Operations-Contd.

Air Rescue Boats — Proposed in area between Dungeness and Beachy Head. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1946/21 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven)

Attack at Brest — 1740 released 4- 250 G.P. bombs at Dres no hits. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2103/21)

Enemy Air Activity

Coasting motor vessel sunk — R.N.A.P. Holehaven reports small coasting motor vessel about 100 tons hit by 2 bombs at 2001/20 and sunk about 100 yards West of Westward Mine Marking Buoy which bears 5.16° W from Holehaven Signal Tower. No trace of survivors. (C. in C., Nore, 0201/21 to Adty.)

REGISTAN — (British 5886 tons) Machine gunned Scarweather L.V. (Plymouth 1450/21)

Convoy F.N. 87 — Convoy "PILOT" shadowed 52° 48' N., 2° 16' E (VEGA 2154/21) Enemy bombing 51° 54' N., 1° 38' E., (VEGA 1553/21)

TRITO — See Mining.

SS. MACCLESFIELD — (British 1049 tons) bombed 10 miles E of Ness Head but not hit. (D.S. 383)

Mining

TRITO (Dutch 1057 tons) — Trawler HERTFORDSHIRE investigating. (N.O.I.C. Portland 2330/20 and 0030/21 to SALADIN) Sunk by supposed mine in 50° 22' N., 2° 50' W., Only 2 survivors proceeding Hamble in SS BRITISH SCOUT (F.O.I.C. Portland 0300/21 to Adty.) Result of interview with Master and Survivors. Time of explosion 2240/20. Position 50° 23' N., 2° 43' W. Helmsman sure it was a bomb and not a Mine. He heard the aircraft. O.O.W. of BRITISH SCOUT 3 cables away also heard aircraft and agrees bomb possible (C. in C., Portsmouth 1215/21)

Ipswich — S.O.Auxiliary Patrol reports 2 magnetic mines dropped during night in Ipswich; one exploded, one unexploded. Probably B Type Mine. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0625/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

M.S.Trawlers — 3 minsweeping trawlers sweeping QZS 17 outside Goodwin Sands. Request Fighter protection 0600/22 till return to Dover about 1000/22. (V.A.Dover, 1122/21 to A.D. C. in C., F.C.)

S.N. Operations — R.A.M.L's 1134/20. Regret no escorts can be spared from already isuffidently escorted convoys. (C. in C., W.A. 1127/21 to Adty.)

Minelaying at Folkestone — Requesting fighter protection for Motor Minelayer M.1. from 0545-0730/22 Code word "Fruit" (V.A.Dover 1823/21 to F.C.)

HAZARD HUBE — Oropesa search (C. in C., Rosyth, 2155/21)

Plymouth — Since my 1523/24/8 (? 1422/24 intended) one red mine detonated 2½ cables Shagstone Beacon. (C.IN C., W.A. 1108/21)

Enemy Intelligence

St. Catherines — Aircraft reports one M/V 500 to 1000 Tons steering East in 50° 26' N., 1° 20' W., at 0018/21 (H.Q.C.C. 0320/21)

Boulogne — 9 or 11 Minesweeping R-Boats left Boulogne at 1140 steering North at 15 knots (V.A.Dover 1159/21 to A.O.C. 16 Group)

Cape de La Hague — S/M H. 43, report on shipping moving in the area (Capt. (S) 5 1451/21)

Brest — 50 M.V's of various sizes in ports and docks, 2 destroyers etc., (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2103/21)

Miscellaneous

W/T Station Iceland — Re immobilisation of certain stations (N.C.i/c Iceland 1445/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CITY OF BENARES (Torpedoed 17/9)	Following survivors landed Greenock 20/9, 36 British Indians, 17 Europeans 47 Passengers.
MARINA (Torpedoed 17/9)	Following survivors landed Greenock 20/9, 4 officers, 13 crew (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1721/21)
ANDORA	Tanker (damaged) is nearly ready to proceed to Sunderland for repairs. Requesting special escort (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1413/21)
UTMOST	My 1459/20. Sailing cancelled owing to defects. (S. 5. 2037/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
	Situation at 2000/21 (C. in C., W.A. 1345/21)
S.C. 4.	Meet, 31 ships, DEPTFORD (C. in C., W.A 1450/21)
H.X.	Forecast of H.X. Convoys 76 to 80 (R.A. 3 B.S. 0929/21)
F.N. 87) F.S. 88)	17th A/S S.F. to form additional escort (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1812/21)
O.B. 217	OTTAWA to join 1200/22 (C. in C., W.A. 1923/21)
O.A. 216	GLEANER to continue with (C. in C., W.A. 1430/21)
W.N. 17	Number and escort (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 0950/21)
O.A. 217	To join with O.G. 43 (C. in C., W.A. 1731/21)
O.B.M. 218	Time and Escort (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1220/21)
S.L. 46 A	Position (A.C.O.S. 2130/21)
S.L. 46 B	Position (C. in C., W.A. 1510/21) LEEDS UNITED to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 1420/21)
O.L. 3.	To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 0930/21)
O.G. 43	HURRICANE sailed to R.V. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0701/21)
M.T. 88	Sailed 1000/21 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1131/21)
H.X. 71	Arrived 0945/21 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1009/21)
F.N. 86	4 hours early at 20 C Buoy (BLACK SWAN 0927/21)

/S.L.Slow Convoys....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

S.L.Slow Convoys.

Following from C. in C., S.A. (begins) In view of the number of casualties to ships sailed singly which are too slow for S.L.Convoys, propose, when number of ships justified, they should be sailed as S.L. Slow unescorted groups to join S.L. Convoys one day before arrival at rendezvous with local escorts. If agreed about 8 ships would be sailed on 24th/9 to join up with S.L. 49 on 12/10 (Ends) Request you rremarks. (D.T.D. 1214/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 1214/21, agree provided groups are -sailed with sufficient margin to ensure their arriving up to time (C. in C., W.A., 2000/21)

SYLVIA

To sail from Weymouth 1200 (N.C.S.O. Weymouth 1131/21) Sailed (1249/21)

GEORGIC

To sail for Clyde 1500/22. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1550/21)

MYTILUS

To sail for Dartmouth 2000 (C. in C., W.A., 1321/21)

ULSTER MONARCH

Ready to sail from Liverpool 23/9. (N.C.I.C. Iceland 1201/21) Your 1201 No A.M.C. available to escort. (F.O.C. N.P., 1658/21)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace and Interception of French Naval Force.

Adty 2313/20, Position course and speed of GLOIRE at 0800Z, 012°32' N. 020° 03' W., (corrupt group) 18 knots. Have parted company and am proceeding course 95° speed 20 to patrol between position Y and X pending other instructions. (AUSTRALIA to C. in C., S.A., 0815Z/21).

Adty. 2313Z/20. Join me on 22/9 in position 010°32'N. 017°19' W. at 0800 if possible otherwise in position Y 012°30' N. 018°00'W. at 1600. Report position course and speed and proposed route of GLOIRE when you leave her. (S.O. Force M, to AUSTRALIA, 0851N/21)

Your 0851N/21 and my0815Z/21. Will join you at Southern rendezvous. Proposed route of GLOIRE as in my 1401Z/20. (AUSTRALIA, 1203Z/21).

CUMBERLAND

Arrival 0005/21. (S.O.I., Freetown, to Adty., 0913/21).

Departure 1430/21, CUMBERLAND. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1635N/21).

Convoy MP.

Departure 0645, DEVONSHIRE, FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FURY, MILFORD and French Escort vessel COMMANDANT DOMINEY. French sloop minesweeper COMMANDANT DUBOC and French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA with convoy MP. (S.O.I., Freetown, 0931/21).

PRIMAUGUET

PRIMAUGUET 0900Z/21 position course and speed 003°12' N. 008°19' W. 291° 12 knots. Intend detaching DELHI after dark today to fuel at Freetown expected time of arrival 1700Z/22. (CORNWALL, 1007Z/21).

Shore Parley

My telegram 191. Believe Bois Lambert and party well received by Administrator at his house. (Acting Governor, 1120/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Force. (Contd.)

Force M Leaves

Departure 0930/21 F.O.C. Force M in BARHAM, ARK ROYAL, RESOLUTION, INGLEFIELD, FORTUNE, FORESIGHT, GREYHOUND, ECHO and ESCAPADE: 1015, H.M.S. DRAGON. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1121/21).

Ref. passage of French Sloop Minesweeper ELAN through straits 20/9 should assurance as to destination in accordance with Adty. 1356/18 be obtained from (a) all French War Vessels (b) Only cruisers and above or 2 or more destroyers (c) French merchant vessels escorted by one or more warships. (ii) Providing French are not in Spanish territorial waters is there any political objections on the score of denying passage through straits to neutrals to stopping French in straits. (iii) I realize that the situation may require treatment in respect of (a) (b) and (c) to be adjusted from day to day but lack of information concerning events in South Atlantic makes it difficult to appreciate when avoidance of incidents should take priority over control of French traffic to ports other than Casablanca. (iv) A short daily appreciation of French situation would be of great value. (S.O., Force H., 1205/21 to Adty.)

S.O. Force H. 1205/21. This was sent with my entire concurrence. I think however general situation with regard to interception of French Force needs clarification. Have interpreted various instructions to mean that present main duty of S.O. Force H. is to intercept important French Forces which may be destined for Dakar and whose presence undesirable there. Have not thought it was intended that the traffic of light force or merchant ships between French Mediterranean ports and Casablanca should be interfered with. The demand for an undertaking from individual Captains before they reach the Straits that they will not go beyond Casablanca seems to be asking for more than they could give personally, with any degree of certainty it would be put into execution or not subsequently disavowed by S.O. there. Interference with traffic between France and French Morocco would seem liable to lead to misinterpretation of our motives and to furnish an opportunity for Germany to force Vichy into more active opposition that I imagine is considered desirable. (F.O.C.N.A., 2350/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Ammunition — Your 0911/20. Arrangements being made to send this ammunition. (D.T.S.D. to S.O., Force H., 1626/21).

South Atlantic

Spanish West Africa — French Consul Fernando Po arrived Duala 20/9 and reported to N.C.S.O. Duala as follows begins - Spanish sloop CALVO SOTELLO sailed from Santa Isabel 1200/18 probably for Island Annobon. (2) Before sailing she apparently laid mines in territorial waters between Cape Formoso and Point Hermosa and thence down the East of Fernando Po. (3) 570 tons war material arrived this month in Fernando Po and 200 tons in Spanish Guinea. (5) Appointment of Italian consul general had been notified though there were no Italians in Fernando Po. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1141/21).

Freetown, Fuel — Details of stocks, and requesting what means to supply. (C. in C., S.A., 1855N/21).

SOMERSETSHIRE — Hospital ship, sails Freetown for Bathurst 1700/21. (C. in C., S.A., 1047/21).

Evacuations — Presume you will reply to C. in C., E.I., 0842/18 so far as question of destination of families in S. Africa concerned. (D. of S.T., 0103/21 to S.N.O. Simonstown). Endeavouring to obtain information through High Commissioner. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1229/21).

Raider Reports — Disguised M.V. raider 12.07 N., 19.32½ W., suspicious vessel closing. (AG MORE CASTLE, 0859/21). Warship following us. (? 1001/21). Cancel distress, warship firendly. (0931/21). Disguised M.V. raider 12.18 N., 22.57 W., unknown ship chasing me. (ADDA, 1013/21). Unknown ship wanting close him. (1016/21). Cancel 1013, ship turned away apparently friendly. (1026/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Sailings stopped — Raider reported 14°33' S., 38°42' W. at 2200/19. Stop sailings to northwards Rio de Janeiro and Santos and sailings to southwards from Pernambuco. Stop all sailings through Bahia and Victoria. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1238/21 to N.C.S.O's).

LACKLAN — (Overdue). My 1045/19. LACKLAN arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1155B/21).

German Aircraft Dakar — Master of U.S. ship WEST LASHAWAY, at Dakar 15-16/9, states reliably informed 24 German commercial aircraft had arrived Dakar in transit to Brazil in accordance with commercial treaty with Brazilian Govt. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1537/21).

Mediterranean

Enemy convoy — Estimated porition of enemy convoy at 0230Z/21 about 140 miles 335° from Benghazi but may be nearer. Convoy is bound for Tobruk. Speed of one ship of convoy reduced to four knots. (Capt. (S)1, 0911/21 to REGULUS).

Alexandria Raid — Air Raid on Alexandria 0411 to 0503/21 about 6 aircraft 25 bombs 13 injured, one seriously, nine Greek, one Indian, two Norwegian Sailors one Egyptian Policeman. Damage negligible. (R.A., Alexandria, 1142/21

Return of Transports — G.H.Q. M.E. advises destinations in South Africa of vessels sailing from Suez on 23/9 as follows:- EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, EMPRESS OF CANADA, ANDES, STRATHAIRD, FRANCONIA, all Durban. Understand thence to U.K. vide 1949/5 from D. of S.T. OTRANTO to Mombasa thence to U.K. vide above-quoted signal. (D.S.T.O., Port Said, 1411/21).

Haifa Raid — Air raid on Haifa 1350/21, 5 aircraft. One Benzine tank in port area plot on fire. Adty. fuel and diesel probably far enough from this not to catch fire. 3 refine oil tanks on fire in refinery. Electric power station hit apparently not much damage. Bombs on Arab Quarter, at least 30 killed. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1547/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Aircraft Torpedo Attacks

KENT — Adty. 2158/19 KENT was attacked by bombing aircraft about 2355/17 in bright moonlight and immediately after by 2 torpedo aircraft from position on starboard quarter. Attacks probably intended to be simultaneous. Aircraft dropped from height of 150-200 feet at range of 500 yards. Believe two torpedoes dropped but no track seen and only one torpedo hit ship. Aircraft engaged before dropping by pom poms and subsequently by .5 inch machine guns and lewis gun. One machine passed close to ship firing machine guns.

Convoy — Following additional torpedo aircraft attacks have taken place. At 1410/13 by one aircraft on AN.3 convoy in position 034.08' N. 026.38' E. Height of drop variously estimated as 80 - 150 feet range one mile. Torpedoes not seen to run.

LADYBIRD — At 1640/17 2 aircraft attacked LADYBIRD each dropped 1 torpedo in position 031.40 N. 026.35 E. Height of drop 200 - 300 feet range 1 mile. Torpedoes passed 2 cables astern.
(C. in C., Med., 1119/21, to Adty.)

East Indies

Raider Situation. — Believed enemy raiders have been operating since end of March. During 5½ months losses on your station attributed to their action amount to about 50,000 gross tons. Whilst these are important, measures you have taken with limited means have so far succeeded in keeping them at this comparatively low figure. An increase in enemy raider activity is to be expected. General naval situation does not permit of sending further reinforcements. Concur that through traffic should be routed north of the line Cape Amber to Achin Head. Whilst so few ships available for operating on the ocean trade routes, considered that as a general principle cruisers and A.M.Cs should not be employed in searching for raiders and their supply ships on the ocean, or in possible out of the way anchorages, but should work on the actual trade routes with the trade. Value of

flying....

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Raider Situation (Contd.) flying boats fully concurred in, but available numbers make it impossible at present to allocate any for that area. Defences of Port Victoria will be considered, but cannot yet be given a high priority. A.C.N.S.(F), 1100/21, to C. in C., E.I.)

ARAWA My 0422/20. Orders for patrol. (C. in C., E.I., 0742Z/21).

B.M.1. BATORY, STRATHEDEN, ORCADES. Route. (N.C.S.O., Bombay, 0832Z/21). CAPETOWN to escort to Singapore. (C. in C., E.I., 1444/21).

WESTRALIA 4 days for engine defects on arrival Colombo. (C. in C., E.I., 1444/21).

A.P.2. Expected date of arrival Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/21).

China

Dutch E.I. Your 0333/19. Netherlands Govt. has instructed Governor General Dutch East Indies that raiders are to be treated as enemy whatever their nationality. (D.O.D.(F) 1334/21 to C. in C., China).

Japanese Inquiry Foreign Minister, Tokyo, informs all posts that Navy is pressing him for more frequent reports on British convoys, etc. My 0856/12 and previous messages refer. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0301Z/21).

French inquiry for aircraft Re inquiry for aircraft from U.S.A. made by A.O.C. with knowledge of Governor General, French Indo China through British Ambassador. (G.O.C., Malaya, 0340/21 to W.O.).

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China. (Contd.)

ILE DE FRANCE — My 0929Z/6. 173 officers and men refused work, orders from Vichy, interned locally, 35 volunteers remain on board under Red Ensign. (C. in C., China, 0345Z/21).

MARIE MOLLER — Your 1741Z/20. MARIE MOLLER released. C.O. Japanese Auxiliary 31 states he was engaged in anti-smuggling activities when a random shot hit ship MARIE MOLLER for which he has apologised and has offered to make good damage. MARIE MOLLER is on friendly terms with Japanese and Master consideres reason to send any British War vessel might prejudice his trading activities. I was obliged to enter territorial waters. (DURBAN, 0440Z/21 to C. in C., China.)N.L.O. Shanghai, 0816Z/21).

Other Ships Detained — My 0816Z/21. Following additional ships reported detained by Japanese: JESSIE MOLLER, was ashore off entrance to Wenchow, now reported afloat and safe but detained by Japanese probably at Tinghai or possibly Limogg. EDITH MOLLER, after receiving permission from boarding officer of unknown Japanese cruiser off Sackotao on 17/9 to make track into Wenchow Bay to locate JESSIE MOLLER, ship detained probably at Tinghai. CARMEN MOLLER, salvage tug, despatched from Shanghai to assist JESSIE MOLLER 20/9. Japanese naval authorities were informed and special customs clearance obtained. Detained near Chickocom Island 28.24 N. 121.43 E. 2030/20 but released 1500/21 and now on passage to Shanghai. KONG SO (Agents Wallem) detained by Japanese near Tinghai after leaving Wenchow. Further particulars not yet known. Representations on above cases made and probably effected release of CARMEN MOLLER. (N.L.O.Shanghai, 0837Z/21).

N.L.O. Shanghai's 0714Z/20 ? 0614/20. Propose that all necessary facilities be granted. Information regarding conditions in Burma being given in approx. one month's time on return of officer who will accompany stores for A.M.S. FALCON to Chungking. (C. in C., China, 1359Z/21).

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

Japan and Indo-China — Tel. 112340 from G.O.C. Malaya. From Duncan, Liaison Officer, Saigon 21/9. (Begins) General Nishihara's word this morning. We shall attack at 2200 hours 22/9. French preparing to attack Japanese on the line Szelok-Nanning and endeavouring to induce Chinese to attack at same time. (Ends). Note: Szelok - 22° N. 108' E. is on the Chinese side of the border N.E. of Haiphong. General Nishihara is head of Japanese Mission to Indo China. (W.O., 22/9, by phone).

America and West Indies.

ASTURIAS, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, ENTERPRISE — Orders for patrol, etc. (R.A.S.A.D., 02452/21).

U.S. Destroyers — Regret do not consider adequate escort for troops as their presence in company would cut down speed of liners and lack of endurance precludes evasive routeing. (C.N.S., Canada, 1253/21).

Halifax Escorts — My 1651/19. To avoid confusion with Halifax Force, suggest Halifax Escort Force be renamed North Atlantic Escort Force. (F.O.3 B.S., 1346/21).

French Oil Supplies — Understand you have been informed by S. of S. for Colonies that Shell Company Trinidad are now permitted to resume supplies to French West Indies of small normal requirements of oil for industrial and domestic purposes but that question of supply of aviation spirit is still under consideration. Am not prepared to give general permission for British Ships to call at French West Indian Ports but would have no objection to occasional visits to comply with above, provided definite guarantee for safe conduct is obtained from French High Commissioner. Under circumstances, think it best that you should obtain this guarantee. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0942/21 to Adty.)

CYMBELINE — Asking to explain discrepancy in dates between his 2300/19 and CYMBELINE raider signal. (D.D.I.C., 1635/22 to S.O.I., Bermuda)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

U.S.5 — PERTH, escorting U.S.5, arrived Fremantle, 0030Z/21. (A.C.N.B., 1700Z/21).

U.S.5A / U.S.6 — My 1028Z/16 and Adty. 1734/19. Probable itinerary U.S.5A. Escort, Fremantle to Colombo, PERTH, relieved by CANBERRA at R.V. to be arranged by A.C.N.B. Tentative programme U.S.6. Escort Fremantle to Bombay as for U.S.5A. (A.C.N.B., 0625Z/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLIO — Santander reports sailed eastward. (N.A. Madrid, 1547/21).

HERCULES — Santander reports arrival 15/9. (N.A., Madrid, 1619/21).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DUCHESA D'AOSTA — Work continuing daily on board. Now painted black except for 3 aluminium coloured masts. Idea of immediate departure apparently abandoned, oil fuel had been conserved. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1141/21).

MAYA — Arrived from Batoum petroleum 5000 tons. (Vice Consul, Varna, 1810/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

O.B.216 — Convoy attacked by enemy submarine in 55.57 N., 08.19 W. (SCARBOROUGH, 0142/21).

CITY OF SIMLA — British, 10,138 tons, in convoy O.B.216, attacked 0142/21 in 55.57 N., 08.19W. (D.S., 382). GUINEAN reports CITY OF SIMLA torpedoed. GUINEAN proceeding Glasgow with survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0400/21) Still afloat. Consider could be salved if tug sent. (SCARBOROUGH, 0428/21). (?sunk) at 0900 in 55.59 N., 08.16 W. All passengers and crew on board GUINEAN who is returning Glasgow. (VANQUISHER, 0905/21). Search for CITY OF SIMLA, last reported 55.59 N., 08.16 W. at 0900. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1211/21 to SUPERMAN). Torpedoed off N.W. Ireland, Seaton Bank, at 0200/21. 32 survivors picked up by Belgian trawler VANDYKE and landed Fleetwood 1300/22. (R.N.O. Fleetwood, 1330/22, F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1824/22).

ELMBANK — British, 5156 tons. Torpedoed 55.22 N., 22.10 W. (Valentia Radio, 0402/21, Lyness, 0413/21). SHIKARI to assist, position given as 55.03 N., 22.21 W. at 0800. (C. in C., W.A., 0839/21, amended 1031/21). In convoy HX.72, from Cowichan B.C., with timber and metal. (D.S. 382).
Ship in position 055.29 N. 022.03 W. sank finally as I arrived. Ships boats rigged for sailing were adrift and abandoned. Sighted wreck INVERSHANNON in position 055.40 N. 022.04 W. Am rejoining HX.72 searching for survivors en route. (SHIKARI, 1730/21).

BLAIR ANGUS — British, 4409 tons. In convoy HX.72 S.S.S.S. 55.18 N., 22.21 W. BLAIR ANGUS torpedoed. (Valentia Radio, 0446/21) SHIKARI to proceed with best speed fuel permits to assist. (C. in C., W.A., 0839/21, amended 1031/21. Homeward bound from Botwood and St. John's N.F. with pit props. (D.S. 382).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

NEW SEVILLA — Panamanian, sunk in 55.48 N., 07.22 W. Have 28 survivors on board including one seriously injured (VANQUISHER, 0905/21). Ship sinking. Have shipped tow until she founders. Position Mull of Kintyre 280° distance 9 miles (SALVONIA to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2140/21). If NEW SEVILLA sunk, proceed to assist TORINIA (position). (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2356/21). NEW SEVILLA sank at 2310 G.M.T. 19 survivors on board. (SALVONIA, 2325/21).

INVERSHANNON — British tanker, 9145 tons. (in convoy HX.72). Sighted wreck INVERSHANNON in 55.40 N., 22.04 W. Am rejoining HX.72 searching for survivors en route. (SHIKARI, 1730/21). SHIKARI reports INVER SHANNON incapable of salvage. (C. in C., W.A., 1819/22).

BROOM/PARK — (British 5136 tons). Position 055° N. 018° W. Placed volunteer crew aboard ship BROOM/PARK. Carrying out A/S protective patrol while raising steam. Have large number of survivors of 5 ships. Intend sinking 3 derelicts at daylight with undestroyed papers aboard. (LA MALOUINE, 0607/22, to LOWESTOFT).

FREDERICK F. SALES — Sunk 2330/21. (see 23/9).

TORINIA — Tropedoed 54.47 N., 18.00 W. at 2100 G.M.T. (Lands End Radio, 2129/21). If NEW SEVILLA sunk, proceed to assist TORINIA, torpedoed at 2200 in 54.47 N., 18.00 W. Order SEAMAN to proceed as in my 2156 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, to SALVONIA, 2356/21). SKATE to assist. (C. in C., W.A., 2249/21) In convoy HX.72 second ship in 4th column. (LOWESTOFT, 1825/22).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

CAIRONESA	British, 8286 tons, torpedoed 55.08 N., 18.30 W. (LOWESTOFT, 2220/21). My 2220. 3 ships torpedoed, escort searching. Request SHIKARI may be ordered to proceed to torpedoed ships. (LOWESTOFT, 0017/22). My 0017. 2 more ships torpedoed, 55.11 N., 17.58 W. (LOWESTOFT, 0120/22). In convoy Hx.72, second ship in 5th column. (LOWESTOFT, 1825/22).
PORT HALIFAX	British, 5820 tons. In convoy HX.72, 4th ship in 1st column. Torpedoed, (LOWESTOFT, 1825/22).

Submarines Reported

0520	A.F. message, 55.22 N., 22.10 W. (D.D.I.C. 0801/21).
1047	57.30 N., 11.0 W. very indefinite. (D.S. 382).
2200	A.F. message 54.47 N., 18° W. at 2100/21 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 0013/22).
2220	A.F. message 55.08 N., 18.30 W. at 2120/21 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 0013/22). Doubtful report of submarine 7 miles E.S.E. from Runnelstone at 2200/21. (C. in C., W.A., 1343/22).

Estimated U/B Dispositions

Italian - 1 may enter the Gironde tonight. No news of any others.
German- 1 was in 55°18' N. 22°21' W. at 0446/21.
The 1 that was in about 60°N.15°W. at 2116/19 is probably outward bound.
3 or 4 in N.W. Approaches, of which 1 was in 55°57' N. 8°19' W. at 0142/21; 1 in about 58°30'N. 18°W. at 1229/20; 1 may be some 90' E. of Rockall.
(D.D.I.C., 1230/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.9.40.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

0324 — Have attacked firm contact in 55°57' N., 08°19' W. (SCARBOROUGH, 0324/21). 3 patterns dropped, contact lost. (SCARBOROUGH, 0428/21). OTTAWA and VANQUISHER to attack. (A.C.W.A. 0403/21).

0913 — At 0913 observed heavy explosion one mile ahead, probably submerged submarine striking mine, 55.57 N., 08.29 W. (ARABIS, 0925/21, C. in C., W.A., 1147/21). Your 0925. Examine position for survivors and wreckage. (C. in C., W.A., to ARABIS, 1123/21).

MOST SECRET

22.9.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

One unit of 60 ft M.T.B's operated last night off shore between Ostend and Dunkirk to destroy enemy surface forces.

Anti-Invasion Patrols

In addition to the usual patrols in the Channel, BROKE, MANSITTART and BURZA patrolled in the western part of the channel.

Attacks by U-Boats in N.W.Approaches

Convoy H.X. 72 was attacked by U-Boats several times yesterday and last night in the North Western Approaches. Some 7 or 8 ships were torpedoed and one was gunned. Another ship, proceed ing independently, was sunk, though the date and time are not known.

Preparations for Invasion

There is evidence that cannot be discounted, that preparations for a combined operation against the country are nearing completion.
C's in C. were informed at 0331 today that President Roosevelt had information from a source in Berlin which he considers most reliable, that the invasion of England is timed for 1500/22. Home Fleet ships were brought to 2 hours' notice for steam and no leave was given.

E-Boats

At 0115 today two E-Boats were reported in the Thames Approaches. H.M.T.EDWINA engaged them with 12 pdr. and claims one hit.

Merchant Ships Sunk

TUNA today sank an 8000 ton merchant ship near the French coast south of Bordeaux.

Operation D.T.

The attack by F.A.A. aircraft of FURIOUS on shipping at Trondheim was completed a.m. today. The operation was spoilt by bad weather inshore. Heavy A.A fire was encounted and no results were observed. 6 aircraft were lost.

British Air Operations

The old French warship WALDECK ROUSSEAU is reported to have been sunk during the recent attacks on Brest

Attacks on the enemy's invasion bases continued last night and today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Serious fires were caused in the London Docks areas by air attacks last night. At Liverpool and adjoining areas also bombing caused several fires.

Bombs were dropped harmlessly at Parkeston Quay this afternoon.

An 10,000 ton tanker standing off a jetty near Dartford received a direct hit followed by a shower of petrol filled glass bottles. The fires caused are under control.

SS PANOS and LARPOOL were attacked about 1100 today off the Fastnet. PANOS arrivved Milford Haven with LARPOOL in tow.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary, off the North East coast of Yorkshire, in the Tyne area, possibly off the Firth of Forth and off the entrance to Stranraer.

HAMBLEDON and WOOLSTON report mines exploded in the Thames Estuary yesterday and today, suggesting time mines. VIVACIOUS, escorting Convoy F.N. 88. with WOOLSTON, had her engines damaged by a near mine explosion but was able to proceed to the Humber.

Two mines exploded harmlessly when ships were returning from the Dover Patrol

A Parachute mine is visible in the River Crouch.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Operation "Menace"

An outline of this operation is given in Admiralty signal today.

A British merchant ship reports sighting at 1330 yesterday off French Guinea a transport filled with troops, escorted by a French destroyer, steering 305°.

SS CYMBELINE (British 6317 tons) was sunk by a raider of the EMIL RICKMER type 500 miles west of the Canaries on 2/9.

Mediterranean

Air Raid on Alexandria — No casualties or damage were caused in an air raid on Alexandria from 0415 to 0450 today.

Air Raid on Malta — No military damage or casualties were caused in an air raid on Luqa aerodrome this morning.

Bombardment of Sidi Barrani — Last night LADYBIRD and 4 destroyers bombarded enemy positions at Sidi Barrani.

Air Operation — R.A.F. continued to harass the left flank of the Italian advance.
A ship was hit last night at Benghazi.

-Air Raid on Cyprus — Lighters at Karavostasi were bombed at 0800 today, but no hits were registered.

East Indies

Air Raid on Aden — No damage or casualties were caused in an air raid on Aden last night and today.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Following received from British Ambassador Washington, source at present ungraded, despatch at 1313/21. President has just heard from a source in Berlin which he considers most reliable that the invasion of England is timed for 1500/22. Ends. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0331/22 to C's in C. Home).

Notice for steam Have steam at 2 hours' notice from 1200/22. No leave is to be given. (C. in C., H.F., 0930/22 to H.F. negative NIGERIA).

Lamlash Will be defended instead of Campbeltown. (D. of L.D., 1150/22).

Dover A/S, M/S, and A/P craft. Organisation in event of invasion being attempted by day. (V.A. Dover, 1155/22).

Code word DELUGE. Suitability of weather for small craft operations in form 1. Suitable, 2. Possible, 3. Unsuitable, will be signalled daily at 0200 and 1400 for various areas. (D.S.D. 1243/22. Adty. AZ. Message 844).

Dover Patrol Destroyers and NAPOLEON signal. Adty. 1250/16 and 1515/16. Request attention of destroyers detailed for Dover patrol may be especially drawn to Dover operation order NAPOLEON paragraphs 8, 10c, and 11. On receipt of NAPOLEON signal they should immediately close the given position and attack the enemy until further orders unless s some other action is obviously necessary. (V.A. Dover, 1701/22 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth).

Policy

Damaged ships No ships are to be sunk unless definitely unsalvageable. (C. in C., W.A., 0731/22).

Convoy escorts Your 1939/21 (re notice for steam). Approved (Adty. 1029/22 to C. in C., W.A.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy (Contd.)

Convoy Escort Zig-Zags	Zig-zag no. 10 must now be known to enemy. No.15 or other should be used at night. Recommendations as to day. (C. in C., W.A., 1713/22 to N.C.S.O's).
Attacking at sight.	Your 1212/21. Suggest following amendment of position in para 2(a)ii. (C. in C., H.F., 1034/22 to Adty.)

Movements

"Rivet"	Requesting fighter protection for one destroyer 0630/22 to 1800/22 arrived Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A., 0559/22).
SALADIN BEAGLE	Arrived from Dartmouth 0617/22. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0739/22).
Nore Command	Anticipated night dispositions 22/23 Sept. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/22). Day patrols and movements to 1200/23. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/22).
JUPITER	My1524/11 and Adty. 1903/20. Intend to sail Dutch School JUPITER from Sheerness at 1500/22 to arrive Newhaven daylight/23rd. Speed expected about 6½ knots. (C. in C., Nore, 1044/22 to C. in C., Portsmouth).
Orkneys	Movements for night 22/23. (A.C.O.S., 1531/22) Trawler lines occupied 22/9. (A.C.O.S., 1536/22). State of A/S trawlers 22/9. (A.C.O.S., 1930/22). Movements 22/9. (A.C.O.S. 2001 and 2147/22).
ROSEMARY	Intend sailing 23/9 for Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1657/22).
Dover	Patrols for night 22/23. (V.A. Dover, 1704/22).
DUNEDIN	Route to Clyde from 57°50' N. 11° W. (C. in C., W.A., 1721/22).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

BOUVET 1 BOUVET 4	Sailing delayed. BOUVET 4 damaged by collision while alongside. (F.O.I.C., Belfast 1731/22 to A.C.O.S.)
Western Approaches	Movements for 22/9. (C. in C., W.A., 1755/22).
ADVENTURE BROKE WHITEHALL	Patrol from Eddystone to 3° W. Request fighter protection from 0900 to about 1500/23 in approaches to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A., 1755/22 and 1809/22).
SURPRISE	Sailed as by C. in C., W.A.'s 1301/19. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1810/22).
GUILLEMOT RUFFIN	Sailed at 1820. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1829/22).
Rosyth Command	Movements for night 22/23. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1928/22).
U.S.Destroyers	Route for 1st TOWNS Flotilla from 58°55' N. 17°10' W. to Belfast for onward routeing to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A., 1939/22).
VIVACIOUS	Proceed to Humber on relief by WALLACE am/23. (C. in C., Nore, 2120/22 to WOOLSTON). My 1248/1, C. in C., Nore, 1140/2, Adty. 1806/2. Request relief for VIVACIOUS be detailed, as STORK out of action since 1/9. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2241/22 to Adty.).
WORCESTERSHIRE	Leave Clyde 1500/23. Route to N.P.54. (F.O.C.N.P. 2214/22 to WORCESTERSHIRE).
LAURENTIC	Leave Ailsa Craig at 1400 /24. Route to N.P.55. (F.O.C.N.P. 2216/22 to LAURENTIC).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Sweep off Maas and Scheldt — One unit of 70 ft. M.T.Bs to carry out tonight to destroy enemy surface forces, commence not later than 2230 from near Thornton Ridge Whistle buoy, sweep to N.E. through Middel Diep on silent engines, and be 25 miles clear of coast by first light. (C. in C., Nore, 1230/22 to BEEHIVE).

Anti-Invasion Patrol — 4 destroyers leave Gate 1930/22, through QZ8.3 and Eastern Channel, and at about 50°35' N., 0° W. at daylight 23rd. Request fighter protection 1930 to dark/22 and daylight to 0800/23. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1440/22 to H.Q.F.C.).
VANOC, VISCOUNT, VOLUNTEER, STURDY, patrol eastward to Lydd Light keeping N. of 50°5' N. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1507/22 to Adty.)

Trawler Patrol off Start Pt. — An A/S trawler patrol to be established tonight from 50°5' N., 3°40' W. to 50°20' N. 3° W. (C. in C., W.A., 1639/22 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth). No.2 Group of 5 ships sailed from Brixham 2000. (N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, 2037/22 to C. in C., W.A.).

MAC.ONE (Trial near East Tongue Buoy). — My 2225/21. Operation carried out today. No result. (C. in C., Nore, 2041/22 to Adty.)

Operation D.T. (A/c attack off Trondheim). — Operation completed am/22. Bad visibility spoilt operation, but shipping and oil tanks attacked. No positive results observed. Casualties to aircraft and personnel of FURIOUS. (BERWICK, 2104/22 to Adty.)
BERWICK, FURIOUS, NORFOLK, MATABELE, ESKIMO in company expect arrive 1030/23. (BERWICK, 2034/22 to A.C.O.S.).

Ushant — Indications that M/Vs are rounding Ushant steering to southward. Request you consider operating with destroyers on night 23/24 in Ushant area sweeping so as to make maximum use of dark hours. (V.C.N.S. 2200/22 to C. in C., W.A.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

CLYDE	Leave patrol at 2100/23. Route. (Capt. S.9 0917/22 to CLYDE)
Scapa	Your 1319/21 para F. It is necessary to keep one submarine at Scapa to fulfil working-up requirements. (C. in C., H.F., 1151/22 to V.A.S.)
L.27	St. Valery-en-Caux and Fecamp 18/9. Report. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1707/22 to Adty.)
TALISMAN, URSULA	Positions. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1755/22).
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0700/23. (V.A.S. 1816/22 and 1953/22).
TRIBUNE, CACHALOT	Positions. (V.A.S. 1952/22 and 1954/22). TRIBUNE proceeding at 2245 (F.O.I.C., Falmouth, 2221/22 to C. in C., W.A.). TRIBUNE sailed. (F.O.I.C., Falmouth, 2300/22 to C. in C., W.A.).
Greenock Area	Movements of submarines. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1235/22).

E-Boats

Position Z	E-boats reported near position Z. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0126/22 to MALCOLM). 2 E- boats reported in position Z at 0115. (C. in C., Nore, 0245/22 to EGRET).
LOCH INVER, EDWINA	No news has been received from H.M.T. LOCH INVER since last night 21/9. H.M.T. EDWINA who was distant about 7 miles from LOCH INVER's position on patrol engaged 2 E-boats at 0050/22 and reports having seen tracer bullets in her direction. Search has been made in the vicinity and wreckage found. EDWINA was unable to report fully until arrival in harbour owing to defective W/T. EDWINA claims to have hit one E-boat with 12 pdr. Report follows. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2101/22).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Calais, Dunkirk, Gris Nez, Boulogne, Flushing, Ostend, Jersey, Texel, Helder, Antwerp, Zeebrugge, Dortmund-Ems Canal	Attacks on Shipping, barges, and docks during night 20/21. (B.C. Summaries, 437,438, and 439).
Channel Approaches	A sunderland will patrol between 49°50' N. 3° W. and 49°10' N. 6°W. from 0300 to daylight. (C. in C., W.A., 0009/22 to BROKE).
Glasgow Balloon Barrage	Your 1730/21. Existing lanes in barrage will be closed when all sites occupied. Attacks appear to have been from above barrage height. (H.Q.B.C. 1530/22 to Adty.).
S.A.2	Cancelled tonight except 2 southern tracks, owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1658/22).

Enemy Air Activity

Cobweb material from aircraft	3 reports received of material like cobwebs dropped from aircraft and causing severe blisters on handling. (Hofor, 1315/22).
PANOS LARPOOL	British ships. Reported being bombed off Fastnets at 1100/22 and making for Queenstown. Request N.A. Dublin may ascertain damage and sail them at dusk for Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A. 1649/22 to Adty.)
Harwich	One aircraft came from seaward and dropped 5 or 6 bombs in the mud about 200 yards E. of Parkestone Quay. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1806/22 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation P.R. Minelaying off Oost Gat.

Adty. 1111/20. para. 7. To be carried out tonight. MALLARD and SHELDRAKE will operate from 0030 to 0130/23 to N.E. of 51°30' N., 3°12' E. and VETERAN, VENOMOUS, WILD SWAN will patrol from 2230/22 near 51°47' N., 2°55' E. 3 M.T.Bs will patrol East of Schouwen Bank during operation. On completion, forces withdraw to northward and return Harwich. (C. in C., Nore, 1116/22 and 1845/22 to H.Q.C.C.). Aircraft will attack shipping in Zeebrugge and Flushing tonight between 2345 and 0115 as diversion. (C. in C., Nore, 1851/22 to MALLARD). M.T.Bs 22, 31,34 sailed at 1930. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1948/22 to C. in C., Nore).

HAZARD
HEBE

Your 2155/21. Operations will begin 22/9. (M.S.1 0037/22 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Tyne

S.S. EGTON reports Enemy Seaplane, probably minelayer, 3 miles North of San Jose D. Buoy. (PUNJABI, 0245/22 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Thames Estuary

HAMBLEDON reports 2 mines exploded. One at 0645 in 51°30'18" N. 1°20'36" E. about 1000 yards from line and between 2nd and 3rd ships; the other at 0650 in 51°31'42" N. 1°18' E. about 900 yards from line and between 1st and 2nd ships. Distance apart of ships 3½ cables and speed 25 knots. (C. in C., Nore, 1031/22 to Adty.). Mine exploded in 51°39' N., 1°2' E. No casualties. (WOOLSTON, 1125/22 to C. in C. Nore). Heavy underwater explosions in Barhull Deep at 2230/21 and 0720/22 suggesting Time Mines. (WOOLSTON, 1205/22 to C. in C., Nore).

Aberdeen

Confirmed that Parachute O mine was seen to drop about 1¼ miles N.E. of entrance at 2305/21 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1224/22 to C. in C., Rosyth). Port open to all vessels using N. side only of Approach Channel. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1303/22 to Adty).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Suspected New Type of Mine	Formation and speed in C. in C., Nore 1031/22 seem suitable for the new Firing Device provided weather permits such high speed. (C. in C., Nore, 1255/22).
River Crouch	R.N.O. Burnham reports Magnetic mine in river Crouch at St. Clements Green. Parachute visible at high water. (C. in C. Nore, 1301/22 to Adty.)
Mines near Thames	Adty. 1728/21. Not considered practicable to destroy these mines near river, close to shipping and controlled mines. Magnetic mines already in barges will be towed to Mucking Flats, and do not propose to load any more. (F.O.I.C., London, 1338/22 to Adty.)
Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel	Propose to re-open. Request you make necessary QZS. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1621/22 to Adty.)
East Coast Mine Barrier	Ref. 195. QZX. Search at S. end of Gap A. was completed on 9/9 1½ miles each side of 56°20'30" N. between 2°4' W. and 1°6' W. Search ordered in my 2155/21 is now in progress. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1809/22 to Adty.)
Portsmouth Eastern Approaches	2 Oropesa sweepers in Eastern swept channel and QZS.III. Request Fighter protection from 0630 to 0900/23. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1916/22 to H.Q.F.C.).
VIVACIOUS	Turbine damage from near mine explosion. Speed limited to 15 knots and starboard engine will not go astern. If no further damage she can continue to Rosyth. (WOOLSTON, 1507/22 to C. in C., Rosyth). No casualties. (VIVACIOUS, 1825/23 to F.O. Humber Force).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Flushing, Calais, Ostend-Bruges Canal	Barges observed night 20/21. (B.C. Summary 437).
Blankenberg, Calais, Ostend, Antwerp, Scheldt, Flushing, Dortmund-Ems Canal.	Reports received 1200 to 2359/21. (B.C. Summary 438). (B.C. Summary 439).
Willemsoord, Imuiden, Zeebrugge, Ostend.	R/C by A/C 22/9. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0615/22).
Convoys.	Sighted by s/m H.43 off Cape Lewi and Cape De la Hague, proceeding both ways with tide via Alderney Race. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1033/22 to Adty.)
Borkum, Ameland, Emden, Juist and Terschelling.	M/Vs reported by Coastal Command. (D.D.I.C. 1737/22 to C. in C.).
Emden	Large number of M/Vs reported off Emden about 1300/22 may be expected to pass through H.1. (V.A.S. 1819/22 to H.44).
Zeebrugge	Bomber Command report at 1633/22, 52 ships escorted by 4 or 5 destroyers steering 200° off Zeebrugge. (C. in C., Nore, 1941/22) Report is incorrect. (C. in C., Nore, 2247/22)
Ems Estuary	Coastal Command reports 36 M/Vs leaving Ems estuary at 1315/22. Six ships reported off Ems, steering West. (C. in C., Nore, 1841/22).
Hague, Rotterdam, Maas, and Delft Canal	Shipping and Barges on 22/9. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2335/22).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

22.9.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

IRNISDHU — Regret report total loss with 4 hands at 2001/20 near Hole Haven after explosion, cause not ascertained. Wreck will be lifted if possible. (O.C. 952. 0900/22 to C. in C., Nore).

BALTISTAN — My 1035/17. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 0955B/22).

INVERSUIR — My 1045/19. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 0955B/22).

LACKLAN — My 1045/19. Arrived. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1155/21).

BOUVET 4 — My 1821/20. Suffered collisiondamage while alongside. (F.O.I.C., Belfast 1731/22 to A.C.O.S.).

LOCH INVER — See E-boats.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
S.C. 4.	To alter course at 0800/22. (C. in C., W.A., 0020/22) Orders to VANQUISHER, (C. in C., W.A., 0120/22) Cancel my 0120. To join H.X. 72 (C. in C., W.A. 2000/22)
F.N. 89 F.S. 89	PINTAIL to form additional escort (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1037/22)
H.X. 72. B.	ROSEMARY to meet (C. in C., W.A. 1650/22)
F.N. 88	WALLACE to join (C. in C., Rosyth 1911/22)
H.X. 72	VANQUISHER to join (C. in C., W.A. 2000/22
C.W. 12	To sail for Southend 1345/24 (C. in C., Nore, 1232/22)
O.B. 220	Route (D.T.D. 1652/22)
E.N. 6	Clyde portion arrived less BALTONIA (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 2012/22)
H.X. 74	My 1210/20 Delete EMPIRE RAZORBILL (D.T.D. 0950/22)
H.X. 76	Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1129/22)
H.X. 75	Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1106/22)
Dispersal Point	Your 1550/20/9. renders proper dispersal impracticable if convoy is delayed by bad weather and point dispersal is far to the eastward. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0942/22)
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	Date of sailing from Liverpool with naval personnel for Halifax. (D.O.D. (H) 1321/22)
ULSTER MONARCH	To be sailed unescorted and routed through Faroes. R.A.D. to sail 2 destroyers to R.V. with her in Skopen Fiord and escort to Invergordon. (C. in C., H.F., to N.O.I.C., Iceland 1046/22) Arrived with A/S trawler STELLA PEGASI (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2145/22)

MOST SECRET.

28.9.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace".

Policy. Following message is of highest degree of secrecy and is for personal information of addressees only. Begins.

Possibility of establishing General De Gaulle in French Territory has been under consideration for some time. Locality offering best chance of success appears to be Dakar, and latest information has led us to think that army and air force at that place might not offer serious opposition. Attitude of naval units at Dakar, and their influence on army and air force garrison are difficult to assess, but on balance there seems a reasonable chance that operation can be carried our without heavy casualties on either side.

2. In view of far-reaching political and strategical advantages which follow from establishment of Free French Flag at this place, we have decided to accept the risk (which we hope is not a grave one) of such action leading to declaration of war by Vichy Government.

3. Combined France-British force is now on way to Dakar with object of capturing that place with as little bloodshed as possible and establishing General de Gaulle there. Naval portion of force includes certain French light naval craft.

4. Commanders concerned have been authorised to modify approved plan if events render this necessary, but general idea is that, on arrival at Dakar, ultimatum will be dropped by aircraft, and French emissary will proceed to port in motor boat. British ships will be kept in background, and, if reception is favourable, landing will be carried out by French troops from French transports covered by French sloops. If reception is unfavourable, British forces, supported by warships, will be landed to back up French.

5. It is intended that operation shall take place on 23rd September. Ends.

The above is also being despatched today, Sunday, by respective departments to C.Os. C.in C. Middle East, Malta and Gibraltar, A.O. C.in C. Middle East, A.Os.C. Malta, Aden and Gibraltar, the Prime Ministers of Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.
(C011/22).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

	Operation "Menace" and Interception of French Naval Force
Policy	Admty. statement to Cs. in C. (1st S.L. 0011/22 (See Operations Volume) passed to C. in C., China, for information (1st S.L. 1435/22)
General Catroux	Appointment to Syria. Message for Gen de Gaulle from Prime Minister. (1st S.L. to DEVONSHIRE, 1346/22) (See Operations Volume)
Situation	Situation report, French Africa, No 22. (D.N.I., 2208/22)
Slow Convoys	South Atlantic Your 1401/20 approved as a temporary measure provided groups are sailed with sufficient margin to ensure their arriving up to time. (D.T.D. to C. in C., S.A., 1502/22, amended 1120/23)
Overdue Ships	My 1035/17 and 1045/19 BALTISTAN and INVERSUIR arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown 0955B/22)
Suspicious Vessel	Position 5.37 N., 16.28 W., followed by suspicious vessel. (BENEDICT, 1905/22) Suspicious ship disappeared (BENEDICT, 2055/22)
Troop Convoys	S.W. and C.M. Convoys (see East Indies)
PRIMAUGUET Oiler	French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET's oiler is French Aux.vessel TARN. (CORNWALL, 1140Z/22)
Situation	Relations with Vichy Govt. may become very strained during next few days. You should be prepared for this in dealing with PRIMAUGUET. DELHI on completion fuelling will proceed to join you. (C. in C., S.A. to CORNWALL, 1943N/22)
French Ships	British M/S SOBO reports sighted at 1320N/21 in position 10.17' N., 16.15' W., one French 2-funnel transport and one French destroyer, course 305° transport filled with troops. (C. in C., S.A. 1613N/22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Code Names	Blocks of words for use in Mediterranean (D.N.I., 1055/22)
Transports	Destinations in South Africa of vessels sailing from Suez on 23/9. (D.S.T.D., Port Said. 1411/22)
Sidi Barrani	Intend to issue following communique: Our naval forces attacked enemy position in Sidi Barrani area during early hours of Sunday 22/9 with good results. (C. in C., Med., 2306/22)
Malta Raid, French Leaflets, Tunis & Bizerta	Air Intelligence Report from 1800/21 to 1800/22 all times local. 0300 to 0815 French aircraft with French crew dropped 100,000 leaflets on Sfax, Sousse, Tunis, on Bizerta dockyard of Sidi Abalaha and aerodromes of Sidi Hamet and Karouba. No enemy opposition encountered. R.C. by 1 Skua F.A.A. observed 1 destroyer 2 M/V's of 800 tons at Messina Catania 1 M/V of 600 tons to 1,000 tons Augusta 1 M/V 3,000 tons 4 M/V 800 to 1,000 tons Syracuse nil 1 oiler of 6,000 tons heading East 10 knots 15 miles south Cape Spartivento 5 C.R. 42's observed 9 miles off Taormina. Engagement did not ensue. 1115 to 1135 1 formation of 5 S.79's escorted by 4 C.R. 42's attempted to bomb Luqa aerodrome 1 bomb only fell on aerodrome doing no damage. 4 bombs failed to explode. 3 Hurricanes and 2 Gladiators were sent off to intercept, but, owing to false report no contact with enemy was made. No service casualties on either side or damage to Gogernment Property. (A.H.Q., Malta 1640/22 V.A.Malta 2305/22 Gov. Malta 2232/22)
Haifa Raid 21/9	My 1547/21. Ref air raid on Haifa 21/9 Tanks on fire in refineries area are 2 benzine tanks and one sludge tank and not refined oil tank. Certainty that no refined oil will be lost. Refineries damaged no estimate actual amount yet received but considered will not seriously interfere with the refining. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 0951/22)
Alexandria Raid	Air raid 0415 to 0450 3 aircraft, 3 bombs, no casualties, no damage. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0912/22)

/Neutral....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Neutral Submarines

F.O. tel. 628 to Minister Athens and 943 to Ambassador Ankara. It would appear that some negotiations are in progress regarding movements of neutral submarines but as I have not received above quoted telegrams am not able to follow meaning of tel 860 from Minister Athens and 1225 from Ambassador Ankara, both to F.O. (C. in C., Med. 1213/22)

East Indies

W.S. 3.

ASKA (damaged) not to be included, WINCHESTER CASTLE used instead (D. of S.T. 0534/22 to F.S.T.O. Bombay) Amended (0726/24.

Dutch Navy Indian Ocean

Following from Dutch C. in C., N.I. Not intended at present to have Netherlands war vessels permanently in Indian Ocean. Although C. in C., N.I. agrees in principle to the appointment of Liaison Officer at Colombo, at present no such officer is available.
C. in C., E.I. will be kept informed by C. in C., N.I. of all movements of Netherlands warships in Indian Ocean.
Netherlands ships forbidden to trade to Madagascar or reunion in compliance with a request received from British authorities.
C. in C., N.I. contemplates operating Dutch S/Ms in Indian Ocean as far as Mauritius if Diesel oil can be supplied by British Authorities.
Also requests to be informed whether such fuel oil can be obtained in Mauritius. (C. in C., China, 0547Z/22 to C. in C., E.I.)

ARAWA

My 0742/21. ARAWA to proceed at 0630/23 towards 18° S., 70° E. (C. in C., E.I. 1918Z/22)

BHIMA

My 1804/20. BHIMA beached in outer harbour Aden. Damage was done by a near miss, one of 9 bombs. (C. in C., E.I. 1320Z/22)

/KANIMBLA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

KANIMBLA
S.W. 1.
S.W. 2.

My 1304/13 KANIMBLA will escort W.S.2.A. returning transports, to be called S.W 1. from Aden to Durban. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/22, 0756Z/22)
My 1204/1 Convoys B.S. 5½ and B.S. 6½ will be called S.W. 1. and S.W. 2. respectively. (C. in C., E.I., 0750Z/22)

Pilgrim Ships

Admty. 1632/8. Overland route considered impracticable. Pilgrim ships will sail across to Aden and thence in convoy. (C. in C., E.I., 0624Z/22)

B.N. 5½

Following sailed in B.N. 5½ from Bombay 19/9 for Suez (list) (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 0909Z/22)

Troop Convoys

Following short titles for troop convoys approved. Vessels returning in convoy from outward W.S. series will be known as S.W. S.W.1. due to leave Suez 24/9 in B.S. 5½. Troop convoys from Cape or Durban to East Africa will be known as C.M. C.M. 3. is due to leave Durban about 25/9. (D.O.D. (F) 1600/22)

Aden Raids

Intelligence Summary No 104 and Operational Summary. For period ending 1500/22. One unidentified enemy aircraft raided Aden 0010 hours. Fighters unable to intercept. All bombs on Sheikh Othman Beach. No damage no casualties. One S. 79 raided Aden 0930 at 17000 ft. Raid complete surprise and sighted too late for fighters interception or A.A. action. 4 bombs fell in sea and 4 Singapore Lines Isthmus. No damage no casualties. Emergency flare path bombed 0045, 6 bombs. No damage no casualties 3 Blenheim 4 maintained fighter escort over convoy A.P. 2.5. 0300 to 1400. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Aden, 1807/22)

Transports

My 0600/14 BATORY, ORCADES and STRATHEDEN sailed 21/9 for Colombo. British officers, other ranks, wives and children for Singapore, China and Australia (S.S.T.O. India, 1040Z/22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

River Gunboats

Your 0449/9/8. It is desirable for one gunboat to remain at Shanghai and one at Canton.
CRICKET and TERN should be withdrawn from Shanghai when weather conditions are most suitable. As Japanese and Chinese Governments have previously been informed of our intention to withdraw these vessels as convenient, not proposed to make further communication to them apart from my notification which you may consider it desirable for N.L.O., Shanghai to make to local Japanese authorities.
Head of M. 0948/22 to C. in C., China)

Indo-China Trade

Admiral Terraux ordered by Vichy to stop British and Allied ships trading with Indo-China without permission. Has asked permission to use his own judgement. Meantime his guarantee holds good. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0210Z/22)

America & West Indies

CYMBELLINE

Asking to explain discrepancy in dates between his 2300/19 and CYMBELLINE raider signal (D.D.I.C. 1635/22 to S.O.I. Bermuda)

Halifax Escort Force

F.O. 3. B.S. 1346/21 to Adty. renaming of Halifax Escort Force. Concur. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0906/22)

U.S.Destroyers

My 1400/18. Amending time of passing through position given in his 1753/13. U.S. Destroyer WELLES instructed to await arrival of second group at St. John's N.F. (F.O. 3. B.S. 1109/22)

HIGHLAND PATRIOT

Adnty. 1738/21, asking for route given to HIGHLAND PATRIOT, which has had to be directed to St. Vincent for re-routeing. Brevity of information given was in accordance with last par of 1234/19/8 from C. in C., Africa. Following is detailed route. Ship also provided with instructions for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1710/22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

U.S. 5. My 1116Z/11. Amend itinery U.S. 5. to ready at 15 knots. Dates of arrival. (A.C.N.B., 0521/22) List and route (Dist. N.O., W. Australia, 0609Z/22) Departure CANBERRA escorting U.S. 5. comprising troop transports CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, NIEUW HOLLAND, SLAMAT and INDRAPOERA from Fremantle, 0550Z/22 (A.C.N.B., 1440Z/22)

SWAN Arrived Westernport 0045Z/22 (A.C.N.B. 0808Z/22)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLIO Left 20/9 destination not known. (Gifon, 2100/22)

HERMONTHIS Docked, speed normal, bunkers about 700 tons. (B.O.L., Kingston, 1024/22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy H.X. 72
PUTNEY HILL

5 ships torpedoed (LOWESTOFT, 0017/22 0830/22m 1215/22, 1825/22, 1850/22 LA MALOUINE 0607/22) PUTNEY HILL, British, 5216 tons, 3333 54.47 N., 18.00 W., attacked by submarine bearing 180° (Land's End Radio, 0053/22) From PUTNEY HILL, submarine submerged. We O.K. so far (Valentia Radio, 0122/22) was in H.X. 72.

CITY OF SIMLA
(Torpedoed 20/9)

Now reported sunk. 100 survivors landed Greenock, 5 people killed by explosion (D.S. 383)

NEW SEVILLA
(Torpedoed 20/9)

Now reported sunk. 112 known survivors and one man drowned. (D.S. 383)

TORINIA
(Torpedoed 21/9)

Cancel prvious instructions. Proceed all despatch to assist TORINA torpedoed in 54.47 N., 18.00 W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0343/22 to SEAMAN) See SCHOLAR.

LOTUS
(Torpedoed 15/9)

Nine more of crew on board trawler ROSITA. This completes the crew and no lives lost. (D.S. 383)

EMPIRE ADVENTURE
(Torpedoed 20/9)

(In Convoy O.B. 216) MASTADOUTE to assist SUPERMAN, towing EMPIRE ADVENTURE 55.34 N., 6.50 W., at 2000/21 steering for Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0339/22) MASTADOUTE sailed (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 0605/22) Ship is ex Italian ANDREA, seized o 12/6. In tow for Clyde, making 1 knot (D.S. 383)

CABO TORTOSA
(sunk before 22/9)

Spanish. Sunk by U.B. off Portuguese Coast. Had arrived Barcelona 5/9. (Press Report, D.S. 384)

COLLEGIAN.
Gunned, escaped

British, 7386 tons Convoy H.X. 72 shelled and exchanging shots. (Valentia Radio, 0612/22) Gunned by submarine 55.37 N., 15.57 W (Plymouth W/T, 0555/22 0600/22) Can see submarine right astern. (COLLEGIAN, 0619/22) Position given in D.S. 383 as 55.14 N., 16.40 W. exchanged shots with submatine which disappeared. (D.S. 383)

/SIMLA...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

SIMLA

Norwegian, 6031 tons, in Convoy H.X 72 Torpedoed. Survivors picked up by various ships. (D.S. 384)
At least five ships torpedoed between 2220 and 0200. LOWESTOFT and HEARTSEASE searched all night without success and now searching in position 055° 27' N., 016° 25' W where gun flashes were seen at 0659. SHIKARI with aircraft ordered to proceed at full speed to try and contact COLLEGIAN Convoy evidently scattered. HEARTSEASE has SIMLA survivors four seriously injured. (LOWESTOFT, 0830/22)

SCHOLAR

British, 3940 tons, in H.X. 72 torpedoed night of 21/22/9. (Cabinet W.R.R. 386) Survivors on board SKATE (D.S. 384) from survivors evidence from TORINA and SCHOLAR, appears possible that U-Boat made her attack from inside convoy while on the surface at night. (C. in C., W.A., 2227/23)

D.L.HARPER
(Torpedoed 20/9)
Incorrect, see 23/9

British tanker, 12223 tons. In convoy O.B. 216. Torpedoed about 2024/20. Was outward bound from the Clyde. Reported sunk and the survivors to be in VANQUISHER, (D.S. 383)

Submarines Reported

0655 — A.F. message, 55.37 N., 15.51 W., 0555 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 0722/22)

0208 — 59° N., 13.30 W., position very indefinite (D.S. 383)

0125 — 54.40 N., 13.40 W., Position indefinite (D.S. 383)

1430 — Submarine reported 55.30' N., 07.17'W at 1430/22 (C. in C., W.A., 1759/22)

1326-1619 — 56° N., 25° W Position Indefinite (D.S. 384)

2208 — 51° to 52° N., 14° to 19° W. position very indefinite (D.S. 384)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 may be off Portugal. No news of any others.

German- 1 may stull be W. of 20° W., between 54° and 56° N.
1 was in 55° 14' N., 16° 40' W., at 0555/22 following up convoy H.X. 72.
3 or 4 in N.W. Approached of which 1 was about 85 miles N. of Rockall at 0208/22.
Another may be to the eastward of Rockall.
A third was in about 54° 40' N., 13° 40' W at 0125/22.
The fourth may still be N. of Ireland (D.D.I.C. 1308/22)

Submarines Attacked

0959 By LOWESTOFT, 55.25 N., 16.25 W. Attacked firm contact. Contact lost am investigating. HEARTSEASE and SHIKARI in company. (LOWESTOFT, 0959/22) No further contacts. No news of convoy, presume scattered. (LOWESTOFT, 1850/22)

1438 Have depth charged oil patch, 59.05 N., 5.53 W., moveing 130° 1 knot. Large air bubble observed after charge.(A/C 204 Sqdn. 1438/22)

Explosion in Minefield

Your 1147/21. Asking for further information when ARABIS returns to harbour (R.A.M.L. 1103/22 ro C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 2, Humber 2. (Adty. 0200/23). Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1 Humber 1. (Adty. 1437/23).

Nore Command Notice for steam — Cruisers, Destroyers, and Corvettes remain at half an hours notice, reverting to normal notice as in my 1035/12 at 0900/23. (C. in C., Nore, 0535/23).

Burning Oil as Invasion Defence — Adty's 1900/20. Apart from Dover, Folkestone is considered the only port in this command suitable for installation of this defence. Length of pipe required. (V.A. Dover, 1227/23 to Adty.).

Military state of readiness — C. in C., Home Forces instructions. (Hofor 1415/23).

Orkneys and Shetlands — Instructions for readiness of military to be issued by F.O.C.S. and A.C.O.S. as they think desirable. Propose to inform these officers accordingly. (D. of L.D. 2131/23 to W.O.).

Policy.

Instructions to aircraft as to attacking shipping in Home Waters — Adty. 1111/20 applies only to surface vessels. Bombing of submarines is covered by F.S.A.2 para 2. (Adty. 1545/23).

Convoy escorts notice for steam — Convoy escorts are to be at normal notice for steam during their first two nights in harbour unless otherwise ordered by F.O. in charge. (C. in C., W.A., 1749/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

EREBUS EDLINGTON "HATCH"	Request fighter protection daylight 23/9 to pm/25/9, Scapa to Sheerness, code word "Hatch". (C. in C., Rosyth, 0010/23).
Capt. D(16)	Am proceeding to vicinity of Aldeburgh Light Float arriving 0245. (Capt. (D) 16 0133/23).
4th M.T.B. Flotilla	MAC.5 leave Harwich 0545 proceeding to 51°57' N., 2°15' E. thence to Galloper. Return to harbour. Do you require assistance from her. (H.O.I.C., Harwich, 0532/2 to S.O. 4th M.T.B. Flotilla).
Nore Command	Night dispositions 23/4. (C. in C., Nore 0800/25). Day patrols and movements (C. in C., Nore, 1200/23, 1910/23).
LAURENTIC	Intend sailing 0200/24 to comply with F.O.C.N.P.'s 1044/18 and 1908/18. (Full calibre firing)(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0940/23, 1530/23).
Northern Patrol	Trawler line occupied today. Names. (A.C.O.S., 1536/23). Movements of A.M.Cs (F.O.C.N.P. 1646/23).
Harwich	A/P patrols for 23/9. (S.O. A/P Harwich, 0930/23, 1536/23).
DUNEDIN, DESPATCH	Are placed under orders of C. in C., W.A., who should administer these ships whilst in U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1620/23). Cancel my 1620/23. DUNEDIN and DESPATCH are placed under orders of C. in C. Portsmouth and are to proceed to Portsmouth taking advantage of dark hours. To be administered by C. in C., Portsmouth whilst in U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2203/23).
JACOBA	Dutch School, sailed from Sheerness 1515/23 to arrive Newhaven 0900/24. (C. in C., Nore 1640/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

WITCH — Intend sailing to arrive F buoy 0700/24. (C. in C., W.A. 1643/23).

Route — For ships on passage at night between Portsmouth and Dartmouth as concurred in by C. in C., Portsmouth. (C. in C., W.A., 1720/23).

GLASGOW — To be sailed for Humber on completion of practices 24/9 with all convenient despatch (C. in C., H.F. 2303/23 to R.A.(D)

Operations

Iceland — One large Black monoplane sighted by Walrus 120 miles S. of Reykjavik flying North at 0805. Not seen in Iceland. (N.O.I.C., Iceland, 1120/23 to C. in C., H.F.).

FALCONET — Boom Defence Vessel. Dover to 40° Dungeness 4 miles and return. Request Fighter protection 1230 to 1700/23. (V.A. Dover, 1131/23 to H.Q.F.C.).

Operation G.L. — To destroy any enemy forces including M.Vs sailing down Channel to Ushart and capture prisoners. BROKE, VANSITTART, WHITEHALL, BURZA, BLYSKAWICA and GARLAND will leave Lizard at 2030/23, reach 10 miles West of Ushant at 2345/23, sweep along North coast of France, and return to Plymouth End of searched channels to be reached not later than 0730/24. Code word LOCAL. (C. in C., W.A. 1347/23 to BROKE). Fighter protection requested. (C. in C., W.A., 1437/23 to H.Q.F.C.).

Operation D.T. (Trondheim) — My 2034. 45 mins. late. Delete NORFOLK. (BERWICK, 0943/23 to A.C.O.S.).

Ostend to Dunkirk — Weather permitting, one unit of 60 ft. M.T.B will repeat operation ordered in my 1202/21, to destroy enemy surface vessels. (C. in C., Nore, 1436/23 to BEEHIVE).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

A/S Patrol off Start Pt. — An A/S patrol is to be established tonight as during last night. (C. in C., W.A., 1513/23 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1851/23 to C. in C., W.A.).

Anti-invasion Patrol — 4 destroyers leave Gate 1930 to QZS.III and Eastern swept channel at 25 knots. Request fighter protection 1930 to dark/23. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1540/23 to H.Q.F.C.).

M/Vs off Calais — 30 M/Vs passed Calais at 1915 steering down channel close inshore. Intercept and attack. Endeavour to reach Nab by 0630. URSULA has been warned. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2230 and 2255/23 to WOLVERINE, VISCOUNT, WITHERINGTON, BRILLIANT).

Submarines

TRIBUNE — To keep south of 48° N. during night 23/24. (C. in C., W.A., 0113/23 to V.A.S.). (V.A.S. 0839/23).

CACHALOT — My 0839. Keep south of 48° N. until 0600/24. (V.A.S. 0906/23).

L.27 — Intend to sail L.27 for area D.4 at 1700/24 on surface. (S.5 1051/23 to Adty.).

The submarine successes in the past few weeks against U-boats have been a very bright spot in otherwise gloomy anti-U-boat picture. What are your proposed dispositions in the near future to enable this good work to be continued. (C. in C., H.F. 1232/23 to V.A.S.).

URSULA — To leave patrol at 0001/25 and proceed to Portsmouth. Route. (Capt. S.5 1333/23).

Greenock area — Movements 24/9. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1505/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0700/24. (V.A.S. 1648/23).

Interception of U-boat — U-boat proceeding to Lorient is expected cross 6° W. in daylight pm/24. TRIBUNE to remain near 47°30' N., 6° W. CACHALOT to remain near 47° N. 5°30' W. and is not to report situation. (V.A.S. 1747/23).

TUNA sinking of 8000 ton M/V. — Patrol compromised while sinking 8000 ton enemy M/V in 45°19' N., 1°20' W. at 1234/22 Am proceeding to patrol temporarily off Ile d'Yeu. (TUNA 2130/23 to V.A.S.).

E-boats

St. Catherines — War Motor boat at 170° St. Catherines Pt. 16 miles. (Cleathorpes Radio, 0013/23).

Position X. — Suspected E-boats activity near position X. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 0118/24 to WIDGEON).

British Air Activity

Boulogne, Ostend, Dunkirk, Antwerp, Flushing. — Aircraft attacks night 22/23. (B.C. Summary 442).

Ostend, Havre, Calais, Boulogne, Honfleur, Flushing, Dunkirk, Antwerp, Zeebrugge. — Aircraft attacks night 22/23. (B.C. Summary 441).

Flushing, Ushant, Colijnsplaat — Aircraft attacks on barges and shipping 22/9. (B.C. Summary 440).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air activity (Contd.)

Brest — Aircraft attacks on port and shipping am/23 (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 1105/23).

Repeat tonight the operation detailed in my AP/430/20/9 with available aircraft of 22 Sqdn. Aircraft may operate as far South as Flushing. (H.Q.C.C. 1440/23 to 16 Group North Coates). Cancel last sentence. Aircraft not to operate south of Hook of Holland. (H.Q.C.C. 1646/23).

Attack on Shipping at Zeebrugge and Flushing. — Repeat tonight the operation detailed in my AP/438/22/9. (H.Q.C.C. 1805/23 to 16 group Detling).

Oil on sea off Brest — Intend to ignite this oil with incendiary bombs from one aircraft. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2240/23 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

D.16 — Am being shadowed by one aircraft in 51°56' N. 1°40' E. course 214° speed 20 knots. (D.16 0739/23).

WOLFE — Your 2136/12. After attack by Condor aircraft, a time bomb 3'6" by 14" was found wedged against funnel casing and with difficulty dragged overboard. Estimated weight of bomb 500 lbs. (WOLFE 1003/23 to Adty.)

Cobweb material on enemy aircraft — Investigation proves cobwebs quite harmless. (Hofor 1851/23).

Dover Harbour — 3 bombs dropped in Dover harbour at 1710. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover. 1901/23 to Adty.).

SUSSEX — My 2245/20. Condition of ship. Estimate 2 weeks required to render her waterborne. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2214/23 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation SN.	Is delayed for the present. (R.A.M.L. 1149/23 to Adty.)
Ruytingen Pass	A/L. MSD. 2157/49 of 9/8. Propose lay first A Mark 1 minefield from M.T.Bs in S.E. end of Ruytingen Pass about 51°10' N., 2°10' E. S.A. opportunity offers during present week. (C. in C., Nore, 1220/23 to Adty.) Concur. But in view possibility of French mines still remaining in this area operations should take place at or near high water. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2120/23 to C. in C., Nore).
Operation PR. (Minelaying off Oost Gat)	Sank one large tug about 160 feet long in 51°56' N. 3°10' E at 0150/23. (VETERAN 0838/23 to C. in C., Nore).
	Operation will be carried out tonight by MALLARD, SHELDRAKE, VETERAN, and 2 destroyers detailed by D.16. Proceed through Gap E, reach 51°47' N. 2°55' E. at 2315/23. Destroyers patrol there, corvettes to 51°30' N. 3°12' E. at 0115/24, lay mines on 037°, complete by 0215, and withdraw by Gap E. (C. in C., Nore, 1444 and 2103/23 to Adty.) VETERAN, WIVERN, VENOMOUS, MALLARD, SHELDRAKE take part tonight. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1600/23 to Adty.)
Plymouth	3 M/S trawlers in 50° N. 4° W. from 0700/24 to 1200/24. Request fighter protection. (C. in C., W.A., 1637/23 to H.Q.F.C.).
Oxan Light	LL trawler detonated red mine today at 282° Oxan Light 5.7 cables. Heavy explosion. (A.C.O.S. 2011/23 to Adty).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Ostend — No shipping off coast for 15 miles West of Ostend. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0300/23). At 0800/23 aircraft reports 45 M/Vs of various types with possibly 1 destroyer leading in 51°13' N. 2°31' E. steering 235° at 5 knots. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1009/23)

Flushing, Terneuzen, Zeebrugge, Ostend, Dieppe, Fecamp, Havre. — PRU. Sortie at 0945/23. (PIU.1714/23 to N.I.D.).

Brest — There are 5 destroyers in Brest. (C. in C. W.A. 1741/23 to BROKE).

Rotterdam Hook — PRU.Sortie at 1030/23. (PIU. 1903/23 to N.I.D.).

Hellevoetsluis, Hetsnui, Ushant, Zeebrugge, Flushing. — On 22/9. (B.C. Summary, 440).

French and Belgian coasts — Night 22/23. (B.C. Summary 441).

Calais, Boulogne, Dunkirk — Night 22/23. (B.C. Summary 441).

Casualties and Defects

VIVACIOUS — (Damaged by mine). Your 2241/22. Regret no relief is available at present. (D.O.D.H. 1021/23 to C. in C., Rosyth).

BEACON GRANGE — N.O.I.C. Dundee reports BEACON GRANGE ready to leave Dundee for Tyne at 0700/26. Speed 10 knots. Request arrangements for towage be made. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1233/23 to Adty.).

CADUCEUS — My 1045/19. Overdue shipping. Cancel CADUCEUS. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1455/23 to D.N.I.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

M.T.89	Will leave Methil 1700 today, escort WOLSEY, VIMIERA. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1032/23).
FS.89	Will leave Methil 1700 today escort WOLSEY, VIMIERA. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0713/23).
HX.72	Owing to lack of escorts, "A" position to proceed to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A., 1040/23).
HX.75	Sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1101/22, recd. 0708/23).
OA and OB.216	GLEANER to shadow after dispersal. (C. in C., W.A., 1020/23). HURRICANE to shadow OA.216. (C. in C., W.A., 1931/23).
OG.43	GLEANER to escort to Gibraltar. (C. in C., W.A., 1020/23). HURRICANE to rejoin at daylight. (C. in C., W.A., 1539/23).
SC.4	DEPTFORD reports in 57.48 N., 18.15 W. at 0200/23. KEPPEL, etc. to join. (C. in C. W.A., 0821/23). LOWESTOFT and HEARTSEASE to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 0749/23). Position of addresses (your 0821) at 1000/23. (Capt.D.12, 1036/23). Position, air reports (C. in C., W.A., 1440/23).
SLA.46	Passing Rattray Head. (SANDWICH, 0001/23).
OA.219	Route. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0931/23).
OL.4	Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1021/23).
HG.45	R.V. and date. (F.O.C.N.A. 0930/23).
HX.73	Estimated position at 0600/24 ANTHONY and ANTELOPE to join. (C. in C., W.A., 1540/23). Meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1600/23).
OA.218	Position (A.C.O.S., 1452/23).
OB.218	Escorted SABRE and GLOXINIA. PICOTTEE to R.V. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2237/23).
FN. and FS.	Changes and additions to convoy code words to come into force starting with FN.91 and FS.91. M.T. convoy will no longer exist. (D.T.D. 2058/23).
HX.77	Route. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1422/23).
SC.6	Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 1505/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

ULSTER MONARCH — DUNCAN and ISIS to R.V. and escort to Invergordon. (H.A.D.H.F. 1945/23). Times (H.O.I.C. Iceland, 1610/23).

SPHINX and CANADA — French hospital ships. Translation of a message sent by Admiral Muselier, No.233:- M. Chartier advises that German and Italian Armistice Commissions have been warned of forthcoming sailing of hospital ships and that French Adty. at Vichy believes such sailing possible in complete safety from 25/9. (A.C. Free French H.F., 1615/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Inform SPHINX and CANADA that Charge d'Affaires London states that French Govt. have now received a safe conduct for their passage and that they should sail on 25/9 in accordance with routeing orders given in my 1604/17. (D.O.D.(H) 2059/23).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

23.9.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace".

Landing	From M.A. Lucioles landed, success signal received but activity reported on aerodrome. Weather very hazy. (F.O., Force M. 0620 N/23.) Emissary passing breakwater boom at 0640. (F.O.,Force M. 0646/23.)
Visibility Bad	Emissary's boat has passed boom, gate was open, visibility deteriorating, force not in sight from land. (F.O., Force M. 0712/23) Visibility bad. Air work hampered, no further news of position at present. (S.O., Force M., 0805/23.)
French Fire	French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA has been fired on but apparently not serious yet. (S.O., Force M., 0821N/23.) French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA reports emissary has landed and proposals have been rejected. She herself is the object of resolute opposition. (S.O., Force M., 0852/23.) Situation developing towards Sticky. (S.O., Force M., 0904/23.)
Emissary Wounded	Emissary returned wounded after attempt made to arrest him. French ships and machine guns on jetty opened fire. Visibility 2 miles, decreasing. (S.O., Force M., 0944/23.)
Air Reconnaissance	Large French flying boat sighted over Battle Fleet at 0941. SATAS sighted it and it turned away. (S.O., Force M, 0951 N/23.)
Destroyer fired on.	Further batteries opened fire on wing destroyer, am withdrawing her out of range. Have made in plain language "Will be compelled to return fire unless fire ceases". (S.O., Force M., 1010/23)
Order to Withdraw	Following received. French Commander, Fortress, Dakar, to British Admiral. If you do not wish us to fire on you, remove yourself more than 20 sea miles from Dakar. (S.O., Force M., 1050/23.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.9.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" (Contd.)

French S/M Hit, Destroyer Hit, Fort Shelled.

After warning that submarines would be engaged if they left harbour, opened fire on and hit French submarine. One British destroyer hit on forecastle by fire from fort. Small fire quickly put out. Battleship fired 13 rounds at fort. Fire has ceased at the moment. (S.O., Force H., 1117/23.)
Request F.O.C.N.A. and S.O., Force H may be included in address of reports of Operation Menace in view of possible immediate repercussion in these ports. (F.O.C.N.A., 1138/23.)

CUMBERLAND Damaged.

CUMBERLAND hit amidships. Main switchboard damaged, one turret at present out of action. (F.O. Force H., 1149/23.)
Following from CUMBERLAND.
Have had to evacuate both engine rooms. (S.O., Force H., 1312 N/23) CUMBERLAND has withdrawn to southward, does not require assistance. Aircraft claims two direct hits on submarine at periscope depth. (S.O., Force H., 1431 N/23.)
CUMBERLAND now steering Bathurst as damage is still out of control owing to heat. (S.O., Force H., 1509 N/23.)

RENOWN.

RENOWN prepare for sea. (1st S.L. to V.A., H., 1236/23.) Your 1236. RENOWN and 4 destroyers ready for sea 1400 (S.O., Force H., 1328/23.)

DRAGON INGLEFIELD

DRAGON and INGLEFIELD received slight damage. In present low visibility heavy ships cannot effectively support light craft. (S.O. Force H., 1229/23.)

Rufisque Landing

De Gaulle now proceeding to attempt landing at Rufisque under cover of fog. (S.O., Force H., 1358 N/23.)

Postponement For.

My 1358/23. Owing to fog, impossible to carry out operations contemplated before dark. Intend therefore to withdraw troop ship and resume operations tomorrow. (S.O., Force H., 1636 N/23)

Destroyer Engaged.

FANTASQUE class destroyer engaged and set on fire by AUSTRALIA. (S.O., Force H., 1712 N/23.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.9.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace". (Contd.)

French Troops

Plain language message sent from Dakar at 1651 N today Armes Thies. Requisition 14 lorries and 18 drivers for battalion to come from Sain (4 corrupt groups) (C.-in-C., S.A., 2027/23 to F.O., Force M.)

Summary of Operations

My 2031 Part one. Summary of today's operations. De Gaulle's attempts at Dakar and Rufisque have been opposed, resistance of fort and ships determined, little indication of poor morale except air action feeble. Indications of reinforcements from interior. Part two follows. (S.O., Force M., 2027 N/23.)
My 2031 part two. Fog, which local authorities consider may persist, has completely hampered operations. Day; visibility never exceeded 4,000 yards leaving no alternative to close action with Fort if our Force was to be seen which De Gaulle desired. Part three follows. (S.O., Force M., 2029 N/23)
My 2021/ Part three, final. Intend now to issue ultimatum expiring after dawn tomorrow and should we fail to obtain acceptance to proceed with systematic reduction of defences before landing troops. Meanwhile have requested De Gaulle to continue his efforts for peaceful settlement during the night. Casualties as reported. (S.O., Force M., 2031 N/23.)

Operation to Continue

Following from Prime Minister, for M.A. Having begun we must go on to the end. Stop at nothing. (Private Office. Approved by Prime Minister. 2214/23 to S.O., Force M.)

Cs.-in-C., Advised.

My 0011/22. Operations commenced at dawn today. Vichy authorities at Dakar offered firm resistance to ultimatum and opened fire on French and British ships. Due to low visibility operations were suspended but it is the intention to continue operations at dawn tomorrow, Tuesday. Naval Command at Dakar have been ordered by the French Admiralty to meet force by force. (1st S.L. 2359/23, to Cs.-in-C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.9.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace". (Contd.)

RENOWN
Alboran Patrol

Before receipt of your 1236/23, had arranged to withdraw Alboran Patrol to the Straits and proceed to Westward with RENOWN and 4 destroyers sailing from Gibraltar at 1900 to await developments from Menace. Unless further orders received, intend to sail 1900. (S.O., Force H, 1710/23 to Admty.)
Your 1710/23. Negative proceed to sea. (V.C.N.S., 1825/23.)
Apart from B.B.C. announcement have received no information concerning progress of Menace. Request may be kept informed. (S.O., Force H, 2210/23)
My 1825/23. It is of course at your discretion to order RENOWN to sea should French bombing make it necessary. (1st S.L., 0120/24.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Air Reconn. — From Daily Summary Operations. Carried out two A.S. patrols and 4 reccos. for surface forces. Area covered Spartel to Meridian 1°30' W. Submarine reported in position 295° Alboran Island 5 by ARCTIC RANGER. Aircraft sent to investigate, no confirmation. (200 group, 1700/23).

STORM, Polish Troops — Polish Legation Lisbon received instructions from Polish Govt. ordering communicate with S.S. STORM for her to proceed west of Gibraltar. No further indication being given they requested us to help clarify. No instructions received here; we suggested STORM proceed Gibraltar - as first arranged between Poles and our N.A. Madrid - there to await instructions. They have communicated with STORM to this effect. STORM belongs to Polish Govt. but sailing under Panamanian flag and owned in name Henri Habert. She is embarking Polish troops near Marseilles and was originally to transfer them at Gibraltar. (N.A.Lisbon, 1627/23 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Supply ships, Gibraltar. — Adty. 1427/14. If necessary for supply ships to leave Gibraltar due to French or enemy attack intend sailing those attacked to Force H as follows, pending developments or further instructions. PACHECO, CITY OF DIEPPE to Freetown; Oiler ORANGELEAF to cruise to eastward Madeira; CAIRNDALE to cruise to southward of Azores. (S.O. Force H., 1845/23 to Adty.)

South Atlantic

PRIMAUGUET — French cruiser PRIMAUGUET 0800Z/23 position 06.01' N., 16.26' W., course 190° 12½ knots. (CORNWALL, 0745/23).

MAHSUD, Raider Report — 8.10 N., 14.31 W. MAHSUD followed by suspicious vessel. (Freetown, Radio, 0440/23) Suspicious vessel turned away, cancel my 0440. (Freetown Radio, 0458/23).

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

A.P.3	Arrival 1030/23. CILICIA and WOLFE with Convoy A.P.3 including ULSTER PRINCE, also CARNARVON CASTLE. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1115/23). List of transports in A.P.3. CLAN CAMPBELL fell out of convoy night of 13/9. Expected to follow, but has not yet arrived. (S.O.I., Freetown, 2101/23). Date of sailing. Water and fuel required exceed that in D. of S.T. 0628/19. (C. in C., S.A., 2125/23). My 2101/23. CLAN CAMPBELL has arrived. (S.O.I., Freetown, 0857/24).
Overdue shipping.	My 1045/19. Cancel CADUCEUS. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1455/23).
Raider Report	My 1238/21. Resume sailings. (Rio de Janeiro to N.C.S.O.'s 1739/23).
ARGUS	Adty. 1415/13. To sail for Clyde excorted by CILICIA and WOLFE. (C. in C., S.A., 1819/23).
PRETORIA CASTLE	Orders for patrol, to cover trade routes. Raider recently reported neighbourhood J.33. (C. in C., S.A., 1943M/23).
French Africa	Situation Report No. 23. Nothing to report. (D.N.I. 1821/23).

Mediterranean

KENT	Results of examination in dock. (C. in C., Med., 1027/23).
Air Activity	Night 22-23/9, 1905, 3 Blenheims attacked Barrani, damage not observed. 1942, 3 Blenheims attacked Menastir. A/A far from Bardia. All a/cs returned safely. Night 22-23/9, 6 waves totalling 35 enemy bombers reported as S.79's and Capronis attacked Matruh, bombs fell in harbour and on station, 2 British soldiers killed. Cyprus, 22/9, 0800 2 enemy bombers level attack 1,000 ft. lighter at Pier Karavostasi, 15 bombs dropped, no hits. 0850, same 2 enemy aircraft machine gunned 3000 ft. containers and military billets, no damage, no casualties, A/A nil. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1032 and 1033/23).

War Diary

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Haifa Raid — Air raid on Haifa 21/9, 8 a/c believed Caproni's in 5 separate attacks. About 80 bombs directed against I.P.C. tank Faroqu. Considerable damage to certain items of plant but not sufficiently serious to interfere with production. No casualties to direction personnel. No naval A/A gun mounted. 138 rounds fired by military, believe 2 aircraft hit. Raid more carefully planned and executed than on previous occasions, pamphlets in Arabic dropped. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1142/23).

Air Reconn. — Times local, 1605, 1 Skua investigated report of unidentified ship north of Malta. Nothing seen. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1620/23).

Submarines — Do you consider that in present conditions small submarines for operation on route between Italy and Libya could be based on Malta? (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med., 2202/23).

Sidi Barani bombardment — My 1547/20. Owing to lack of suitable targets bombardments carried out by 27 Divn. destroyers only effect was to disperse motor transport concentrations at Sidi Barani and damage to aerodrome. Camp in vicinity of aerodrome also broken up. Bombardment considered to have been effective. (C. in C., Med., 1101/23).

Italy and Greece — Indications that Italian policy of intimidating Greece apparently successful. Examples. Suggest time has come for a firm stand which will serve double purpose of reminding Greeks who is controlling Mediterranean and enabling them to point out to Italy that they are acting under British pressure. (C. in C., Med., 0901/23).

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Air Activity — Night 20-21/9, attacks on Gura and Mai Adaga. Kenya, 21/9 and 22/9, S.A.A.F. reconnaissances El Wak, El Katulo, Mombasa, Dar-es-Salaam and Kismayu areas. Kismayu 1 small and 12 large ships, 1 submarine submerging, 1 high speed motor launch, no aircraft, Gobwen Birkao appeared vacated. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1032 and 1033/23).

Dutch Shipping — My 1016/9/8 Para 3 (c) (Report of shelling of ATHELKING by disguised Merchant ship raider). Dutch C. in C., Netherlands East Indies has forbidden Dutch ships to trade to Madagascar or Re Union. Dutch ships wishing to sail to these territories are to be so informed and any Dutch ship contravening this order is to be reported to me. (C. in C., E.I., 0530Z/23, to N.C.S.O's). (Passed to Adty. 0532Z/23).

YARRA — Departure 0700Z, YARRA for patrol. (N.O.I.C., Aden, 0721Z/23).

ELORN — Marine Djibuti informed master of TUNA that French Tanker ELORN would sail about 25/9. She is still laden (B.3). Can reply now be made to my 0440/19. (Proposal to evacuate wounded persons for Djibuti to Madagascar). (C. in C., E.I., 0958/23 to Adty.)

Convoy BN.6 — My 0740/15. Echelon 3 Niblick will now be reduced by 4 personnel ships 2 for Suez and 2 for Port Sudan, owing to 2 ships KHEDIVE ISMAIL and HOSANG having engine defects and being unable to proceed, and 2 ships ERINPURA and KARAGOL arriving too late from United States to be embarked and sailed in convoy on 25/9. Total number of transports sailing in BN.6 now is 17. (P.S.T.O., Bombay, 1302Z/23).

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

NEPTUNE	To increase speed to 20 knots weather permitting. On arrival in 30° S., 50° E., comply with my 1404/21. (C. in C., E.I., 1410Z/23, 1740/23).
CERES	Raise steam at 1 hour's notice. (C. in C., E.I., 1410Z/23). CERES is proceeding from Durban at 15 knots towards 33° S., 40°E. (C. in C., E.I., 1740/23). Sailed at 2331 G.M.T. in accordance C. in C., E.I., 1710Z/23. (N.O.I.C., Durban, 2332Z/23).
Enemy Report	My 1410/23. N.O.I.C., Simonstown, report from D.F. bearings suspect enemy ships in approx. position 38° S., 46° E. at 2044Z/22. (C. in C., E.I., 1740/23). Your 1740/23. This transmission was from U/B operating N.W. of Ireland. (D.D.I.C. 0214/24).
Declared danger zone	Italians recently announced that their previous declaration of a zone within 30 miles of Italian African coasts is under consideration. Request report: (a) Whether, there is any sea-borne traffic going to Italian East Africa; (b) if this is the case, whether the declaration of a dangerous area off Eritrea, British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland will assist you, observing that naval and air forces can then be authorised to sink at sight any vessel found within 30 miles of the coasts of those territories. (Hd. of M., 1808/23, to C. in C., E.I.).
Air Activity	Intelligence Summary. No. 105 and Operational Summary for period ending 1500 G.M.T. 23/9. 2 Blenheims attempted attack hangars Diredawa unable locate target due cloud bombed Zeilah waterfront 0130 and 0205, results not observed no opposition. One Blenheim maintained fighter patrol convoy A.P.2, 0330 to 0730. All time G.M.T. No casualties. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1843/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

French Shipping — Adty. 2002/7. Consider it most probable Admiral Terreaux would not at present allow ships to be chartered for fear of Vichy reaction. I also think he has need of at any rate some of them for Indo China trade, and under agreement you have made with Indo China authorities there is of course nothing to prevent them trading freely on China Station now. I am on frank terms with Ad. T. and submit I may be allowed to discuss matter with him. (L.C., Saigon, 0255/23).

River Gunboats — Adty. 0948/22 and British Embassy Shanghai's 0200/21. Concur with views of British Embassy Shanghai that value of keeping FALCON in commission is small. Voluntary reduction of only remaining gunboats in Chinese controlled waters might however produce demand which it would then be more difficult to resist to withdraw also our gunboat from Japanese controlled waters. Request your views. (C. in C., China, 0535Z/23, to Ambassador, Tokyo).

Indo-China — Following from Duncan, Hanoi, dated 22/9. Accord signed in principle. Army attitude complete disgust. Details tomorrow. (G.O.C. Malaya, 1104/23).

Dutch submarine SALANDO — My 0945/17. Following received from C. in C. Dutch E.I. Dutch s/m K.17 departed Sunda sunk 2220Z/21 escorting S.S. SALANDO late MONI RICKMERS (route) to Durban speed 10½ knots. (C. in C., China, 1251Z/23).

America and West Indies

French QUERCY — Information received from U.S. State Dept. that French cruiser QUERCY leaves Fort de France 25/9 and expects to arrive French Guiana 28/9 or 29/9. (N.A. Washington, 1731/23

U.S. Destroyers — My 1902/7. Second 8 commissioned am/23 as 2nd Town Flot. Divisional leaders KALK and HOPEWELL. Names, KALK, MADDOX, COWELL, FOOTE HOPEWELL, ABBOTT, THOMAS, DORAN (?DORSEY). (F.O. 3 B.S.

Escorts — Your 1533/5 and 1453/12 and Adty. 1631/17 and 2326/19. Regretted that under present circumstances impossible to provide atternative escorts. Matter will be received at earliest opportunity as urgency is fully recognised. (DOD(F) to NSHQ, Ottawa, 2216/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ITHAKA — Left in Ballast, Russia, arriving Poti 23/9. (Galatz, 1048/21, recd. 0320/24). (D.S. 385).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CALIFORNIA — Hospital ship, 13060 tons, due to arrive Naples 25/9 with 417 invalids. (D.S. 385).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

COMPIEGNE — Now loading cargo of sugar. Destination France, possibly Morocco (B.2). (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1758/23).

Information received from U.S. State Dept. that the following French merchant vessels had left or were leaving Martinique carrying cargoes of sugar: CAPITAINE, PAUL, LEMERLE 21/9. ?ARIZONA 23/9, MONTAGEL 27/9. Destination not known. Ships had national flag painted on hull but navigation lights and defence guns had been removed. We suspect destination Dakar and are trying to confirm. (N.A. Bermuda, 1829/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

23.9.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE ADVENTURE (torpedoed 20/9)	SUPERMAN reports EMPIRE ADVENTURE sunk in position 55°11'30" N., 1°57'(?) W. at 0350. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0400/23). Ordering MASTADONE to proceed to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0704/23).
BOKA (Torpedoed 20/9)	Panamanian, 5,560 tons, bound from Barry to Sierra Leone, torpedoed in convoy OB.216 at 2024/20, 55.54 N., 7.24 W. 28 survivors landed at Londonderry, 8 of crew missing. (D.S. 385).
D.L. HARPER (Fake report)	(Reported sunk by s/m 20/9). Has been at Greenock since 31/8. Ship sunk on that occasion was the BOKA (see above). (D.S. 385).
FREDERICK S FALES (Sunk 21/9).	British 10,525 tons torpedoed and sunk in convoy HX.72, probably 2330/21, 54.47 N., 18.00 W. Was bound from Curacao to Clyde. 32 survivors picked up, (D.S. 385). LA MALOUINE reports position course and speed 55.50 N., 13.08 W., 96°, 7 knots, assistance only required if cabled for. Add to survivors on board 32 of crew of FREDERICK F. SALES sunk 2330/21 (C. in C., W.A., 2347/23).

Submarines Reported

0206	U/B in 57.00 N., 15.00 W., at 0206/23 moving either north or south. (C. in C., W.A., 1159/23).
1403	Enemy submarine reported 53° N., 17°10 W. (C. in C., W.A., 1403/23). HURRICANE to join GLEANER, hunting. (C. in C., W.A., 1537/23).
-	S/m reported 295° Alboran Island by H.M.S. ARCTIC RANGER. A/c sent to investigate, no confirmation. (200 Group, 1700/23).
1330	53° N., 17.10 W. periscope sighted by DARLINGTON COURT. (D.S. 385).
2151	54° to 55° N., 20; to 22° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 385).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1409-1418	50° N., 12.30 W., position indefintie (D.S., 385).
2216-0044/24.	About 350' S.W. of Ireland, position indefinite. (D.S. 385).
pm/23	38.44 N., 63.56 W. Press report of unknown ship sighting U/b. (D.S. 385).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions

Italian - 1 off Portugal. No news of any others.
German - 1 about 250' W. of Fastnet proceeding to Lorient.
1 far out in Atlantic W. of 20° W. probably between 54° and 56° N.
3 or 4 N.W. Approaches of which 1 may be N. of Rockall; another is probably N. of Ireland and a 3rd may be somewhere about 57° N. 15°W.
(D.D.I.C., 1240/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation GL	A force of 6 destroyers under BROKE last night carried out a sweep from Ushant along the north coast of France, to destroy enemy merchant ships which have been proceeding down Channel and rounding Ushant lately, usually escorted by T.Bs and E-boats.
Destroyer Sweep	4 destroyers last night proceeded to try to intercept 30 merchant vessels reported off Calais at 1915, steering down Channel. They failed, however, to find the enemy ships.
Anti-invasion patrol	Destroyers last night carried out anti-invasion patrol in the Channel.
Submarine successes	TUNA early this morning sank a large merchant vessel screened by 2 former Norwegian T.Bs west of the Ile d'Yeu. CACHALOT sank a U-boat today, steering east about 100 miles south west of Ushant. The submarine successes in the past few weeks against U-boats, of which 6 have been sunk by submarines this month, have been a very bright spot in an otherwise gloomy anti-U-boat picture.
Convoy FN.89 attacked by E-boat	Convoy FN.89 escorted by WINCHESTER was attacked by an E-boat at 0050 today. S.S. CONTINENTAL COASTER was sunk. The enemy retired behind a smoke screen after firing torpedoes.
LOCH INVER lost	H.M.T. LOCH INVER is presumed lost, no news of her having been received since 21/9. H.M.T. EDWINA, who engaged 2 E-boats about 0100/22 saw tracer bullets in her direction, where some wreckage has been found.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations

R.A.F. continued their attacks and reconnaissances of the enemy's invasion bases last night. Aircraft of coastal command attempted to fire oil on water in Brest harbour, without success, though fires and heavy explosions were caused in the dockyard.

Locks in the Kiel Canal, and docks at Bremen and Hamburg were also attacked.

This afternoon, 12 aircraft of Bomber Command escorted by fighters carried out an attack on enemy motor minesweepers reported sweeping in the British minefield 9 miles off Dover. 2 direct hits and several near misses were obtained. Enemy fighters attacked; one enemy was shot down and one Blenheim was lost and one force landed, damaged. (Air Min. D.S. 433).

85 aircraft of Bomber Command last night successfully attacked public utilities and railway objectives in the Berlin area.

Enemy Air Operations

VIMIERA and convoy "Merit" were unsuccessfully attacked today off the north east coast, the splash of a suspected torpedo being seen.

At 0840 today training ship CORNWALL was capsized by a near miss during an attack on Tilbury. No naval casualties or damage occurred.

S.S. ZAGLOBA (Polish) was bombed and machine gunned without result in the approaches to the Clyde.

Southampton was bombed twice this afternoon. Production at the Supermarine Aviation Works is slightly affected and the railway was badly damaged.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation PR — Last night MALLARD and SHELDRAKE, accompanied by VETERAN, WIVERN, and VENOMOUS laid mines off the Scheldt successfully.

LOCH MONTEITH damaged — A/S trawler LOCH MONTEITH was damaged by suspected mine while on patrol at 0255/24 10 miles S.S.W. of Portland Bill but returned to harbour under her own steam.

Enemy Minelaying — Enemy aircraft carried out minelaying last night between the Humber and Firth of Forth.

Blyth was closed early this morning until sweeping was completed at 1355.

Another mine was detonated off Point of Oxan today.

Operation "Menace"

A further ultimatum present yesterday to the Vichy authorities in Dakar expired at 0600 today. This was refused and in consequence bombardment of the forts and of RICHELIEU was carried out during this forenoon and afternoon, without conclusive results, in face of strong determination to resist.

FORTUNE depth charged a submarine which attempted to attack our Fleet. The submarine came to the surface and surrendered

CUMBERLAND arrived at Bathurst this morning.

Air attack on Gibraltar — Gibraltar was bombed by 25 or more aircraft believed to be French, operating from North Africa this afternoon; RENOWN and 4 destroyers put to sea undamaged at 1528 during a lull. Damage was done in the dockyard.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

3 bombs were dropped in Aden harbour today, without causing any damage.

China

The Vichy Govt. on 22/9 ordered Admiral Terraux to stop British and Allied ships trading with French Indo-China without permission, but he continued to permit trading whilst asking Vichy for permission to use his own judgment. Japanese troops entered Indo-China yesterday morning, as the result of an agreement signed at Hanoi which, as far as it has been disclosed gives Japan all the military facilities required by the Navy and Army for the campaign in China. Today, C. in C., China ordered sailings of British and Allied ships except tankers as previously arranged for French Indo-China ports to be suspended until further orders, Admiral Terraux having asked that this should be done, in order to facilitate his negotiations with Vichy.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET

24.9.1940
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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — Humber 2, Nore 1, Dover 1, Portsmouth (D.C.0200/24)
Humber 2, Nore 1, Dover 1 (D.C. 1418/24)

Burning Oil as Invasion Defence — Your 1900/20. Proposals for installation at Ports other than Newhaven are being held up pending solution of difficulties discussed in Portsmouth 481/0115 C. of 19/ (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0947/24 to Adty.)

Harwich Destroyers Notice for Steam — Your 2130/23. Should Destroyers Harwich Force in Harbour tomorrow be at half hour or 2½ hour notice for steam. (Capt. D. 16. 2021/24 to C. in C., Nore)

Policy

C.S. 18. — If intended to maintain 3 Cruisers of 18th C.S in Humber, should like MANCHESTER to carry out deferred firings at Scapa before BIRMINGHAM is taken in hand. (C.S. 18. 0830/24 to C. in C., H.F.) Think it very important not to delay further BIRMINGHAM's refit. Concur in C. in C., Nore's 1108/7/8, which relates. The whole effective force of 18th and 2nd C.S. has passed from my operational control (C. in C., H.F., 1301/24 to C.S. 18) I should be content for this to be arranged in any way that you and Adty. think best. (C. in C., Nore, 1607/24 to C. in C., H.F.) Refit of BIRMINGHAM should not be further delayed. (V.C.N.S. 2150/24 to C. in C., H.F.)

A/S Measures for Defence of Trade — A weekly meeting will be held at Adty. to keep authorities in close touch and expedite any necessary alterations. C. in C., Coastal Command and C. in C. W.A. requested send Representatives, and also other Flag Officers whenever they desire. First Meeting at 1130/1 October. (A.C.N.S. T. 1412/24 to Cs. in C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

PATROCLUS — Leaves Liverpool a.m./25 for area C.3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1016 and 1020/24)

WOLFE / CILICIA } — C. in C., S.A. 1819/23. WOLFE take area A. 3. CILICIA take area B. 3. (F.O.C.N.P., 1018/24)

Nore Command — Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/25 (C. in C., 1200/24)

Dover — Patrols for night 24/25 (V.A.Dover 1500/4)

Orkneys — Movements for night, 24/25. (A.C.C.S., 1533/24) Trawler Lines occupied 24/9 (A.C.C.S. 1536/24)

REPULSE — Will be off Rattray Head at 0600/25 on passage to Rosyth. Request Fighter protection. (R.A.D. H.F., 1536/24 to C. in C., Rosyth) Cancel my 1531 and 1536/24 (R.A.F. H.F. 2120/24 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Harwich — Night Dispositions and Movements to 1200/25 (H.C.I.C. 1600/24)

Portsmouth — Movements for night 24/25 (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1607/24)

DESPATCH / DUNEDIN } — Adty. 2203/23. DESPATCH and DESPATCH have no close-range A/A weapons except Lewis Guns. (C. in C., America & W.I. to C. in C., Portsmouth)

GLASGOW — Adty. 2100/23. GLASGOW proceeds about 2130/24 expects to arrive Humber (R.A.D. H.F., 1201/24)

MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation LUCID

Paragraph 11. Request following forces be allocated. Destroyers: Forces A and C from Nore Command, Force B from Portsmouth Command. Minesweepers: Force A, 3 from 5th M/S Flotilla and Force B, 3 from 6th M/S Flotilla. M.T.B's: C. in C., Nore to allocate most suitable M.T.B's or M.A/S.B's in Nore, Portsmouth and Dover Commands. (A.C.N.S. M. 1210/24 C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth, and V.A.Dover)

Communication Orders. W/T watch and Confidential Books. (C. in C., Nore, 1252/24 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

X. 243/24/9. Instructions for Operation. Amend last line para 10 to read 0600/26. (Air Ministry 1550/24 to Bomber, Fighter, and Coastal Commands)

Amend a.m. 1210/24 in accordance with C. in C., Nore's 2204/23. (D.C.D. M. 1636/24 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth, and V.A.Dover)

Para. 21. A red can buoy with flashing light established at 100° 9 miles from S. Foreland Lighthouse, visible 3½ miles. Request you inform ships of Force A. Otherwise existence of Buoy to be secret for the present. (D.C.D. M. 1637/24 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth and V.A. Dover)

A.L.P.D. 09066/40 of 24/9. Para 5. Request you inform submarines on patrol in Portsmouth Command Area as necessary. (V.A.S. 1656/24/24 C. in C., Portsmouth

A.P. 452/24/9. Para 8. Fighter protection to be provided 25/9 by 235 Squadron from Thorney Island at time and place to be arranged by you direct with C. in C. Portsmouth. (H.Q.C.C. 1735/24 to 16 Group Thorney Island)

/GARTH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

GARTH, Oiler WAR NIZAM, and Rescue Tug MURIA to leave Sheerness at 1600/25, anchor in swept channel before dark, and arrive South Goodwin L.V. by 0135/26. MURIA then proceeding to Dover. CAMPBELL, CATTISTOCK, and VESPER, with with SALAMANDER, FITZROY, HUSSAR and M.T.B's of fource A to leave Sheerness 2100/25 and R/V with WAR NIZAM at 0135/26. Force C, namely VETERAN, VENOMOUS, and WILD SWAN, leave Sheerness 2130/25 to North Goddwin L.V. and thence as by Operation Orders. Sailing of NIGER, SELKIRK and ELGIN will be signalled when time of R.V. for Force B is known. S.O.Force A will be in CAMPBELL. S.O.Force B in WOLVERINE (C. in C., Nore 2140/24 to V.A.Dover, C. in C., Portsmouth)

FALCONET — Boom Defence Vessel. Dover to Dungeness and return. Request Fighter protection 1245 to 1930/24. (V.A. Dover, 1282/24)

Anti-Invasion Patrol — VANOC, VOLUNTEER, BRILLIANT, BULLDOG patrol tonight Eastward to Lydd Light and Southward to 50° 5' N., (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1517/24)

Operation O.I. (Swean of French N.Coast from Ushant) — Request you will carry out on 25/26 as on 23/24. (D.O.D. H. 1535/24 to C. in C., W.A.)

Start Point A/S Patrol — An A/S Patrol to be established tonight from 50° 7' N., 3° 30' W., to 50° 30' N., 3° W. (C. in C., W.A. 1539/24 to N.O.I.C., Dartmouth)

Submarines

TRIBUNE
CACHALOT — TRIBUNE to proceed at 0600/25 to patrol off Ile de Groix. CACHALOT to carry out F.D. 27 or, if completed, to Falmouth. (V.A.S. 1141/24) Cancel my 1747/23 (S. S. 1522/24 to Adty.)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0700/25 (V.A.S. 1714/24)

/URSULA .....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

URSULA
L.27

To enter Area S. 3. at 2300/24 and continue Patrol L.27 to enter Area D. 4. (S. S. 1045/24)

Portsmouth
S/M Sanctuary

Amend limits as follows (V.A.S. 2038/24 to H.O.C.C.)

Portsmouth Area

Your 1532/8. Cancel my 1631/24. Positions (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2124/24 to Adty.)

TUNA

Attacked one large M/V escorted by 2 Destroyers at 0435/24 in 46° 29' N., 2° 58' W., which sank at 0710. Am returning to Gironde. (TUNA 2125/24 to V.A.S.)

Greenock Area

Movements for 25/9. (F.O.I.C., 1745/24 to Adty.)

E-Boats

Convoy PILOT
(F.N. 89)

One Enemy Motor Boat attacking Convoy in 53° 2' N., 2° E. (EGRET 0050/24) Believed 6 Torpedoes fired. No hits. E-Boats retired behind smoke screen. (WINCHESTER 0120/24) CONTINENTAL COASTER, (British, 555 tons) Torpedoed and sunk in 53° 59(N., 2° 10' E., 5 survivors picked up. Total crew 9. (EGRET 0201/24 to Adty.)

Off Norfolk
Coast

2 M.T.B's bearing 100° 3 miles. My position 53° 2' N. 2° 8' E., (WINCHESTER 0055/24)

British Air Activity

Boulogne, Calais, Ostend, Flushing, Kiel Canal, Hamburg, Wismar, Cuxhaven, Bremen, Bremerhaven. } A/C attacks on night 23/24 (BC Summary 443

Enemy
Minesweepers

Bomber and Coastal Command to attack 7 enemy minesweepers reported operating 9 miles off Dover. Fighter Command to provide support. (Air Ministry 1130/24)

/Scarth Area.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Rosyth Area — Air Searches. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1344/24)

Tornado Bombers from Brest to Guernsey — Your 1337/21. 2 Naval T.S.R. Squadrons available for shore-based operations are under A.O.C. C. in C., Coastal Command with whom request you discuss your requirements. Fully concur Fighter Escort of 6 Blenheims is inadequate for day operations. (5th S.L. 1942/24 to C. in C., W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy MERIT — One aircraft convoy in 55° 29' N., 1° 35' W., (VIMEIRA 0125/24 and 0225/24) Splash seen of suspected torpedo at 55° 26' N., 1° 26' W., (VIMEIRA 0250/24)

CORNWALL — At 0840/24 one H.E. Bomb was dropped and exploded under water near Training-Ship CORNWALL which sank. No casualties Other bombs dropped at Tilbury; no naval casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. London, 1700/24 to Adty.)

ZAGLOBA — Polish ship arrived Clyde. Master reports bombed and machine-gunned by A/C at 0835/24 in 55° 10' N., 5° 47' W., No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1800/24 to Adty.)

Mining

Sweep by M.T.B's M.T.B. 15. Sunk — M.T.B. 15 badly damaged by mine approx. 1 mile N. of position X at 2055/23. All crew saved. Three injured landed at Felixtowe by M.T.B. 17. M.T.B. 15 is reported to be still afloat and M.T.B's 14 and 16 are standing by her. Tug has been sent from Harwich to attempt salvage. (C. in C., Nore, 0030/24)
Request for fighter protection. H.M.Y. BASSET towing damaged M.T.B. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0043/24 to C. in C., Nore)
At 0405 M.T.B. 16 reports that M.T.B. 15 had sunk. (F.O.i/c Harwich 0439/24)

/LOCH MONTEITH...

MOST SECRET

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H.M.S. CONQUEST

Mining-Contd.

LOCH MONTEITH
Aimed

A/S Trawler LOCH MONTEITH now returning to Harbour under own steam, reports that at 0255 while on patrol bows blown off by suspected mine in position 10 miles 240° Portland Bill. Tug sent to assistance stated to be 6 lost 3 injured. (F.O.i/c Portland, 0512/24)

Blyth

Closed for suspected minelaying until sweeping completed (N.O.i/c Blyth 0514/24) Blyth now open (N.O.I.C., Blyth, 1355/24)

Operation P.R.

Successfully completed. (F.O.I.C. 1242/24)

Orkneys

LLTrawlers detonated red mine today 268° 1 mile 3.75 cables from Point of Oran. (A.C.O.S. 2007/24)

Operation M.U.

It is proposed to back up the minefield M.S. laid between 3/9 and 6/9 by a line about 4 miles long 190° from a position 113° south Foreland 6.2 miles. This line will be under cover of our shore batteries to prevent sweeping. Und retoed PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAN are available and have about 180 MK XIV mines on board. Proposed date of operation night of 26/27 Sept. (V.A. Dover, 1333/24)

PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAN and a covering Force of M.T.B's as available to carry out, during the night 26th/27th Sept. C. in C., More to arrange with V.A. Dover for a covering Force of M.T.Bs off the French Coast and for Aircraft protection during daylight passage Southward 26/9 and return 27/9

(Note All details of the operation are contained in the signal)
(V.A.Dover, 2314/24)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Ems Estuary Zeebrugge Ostend South of Calais	} By 1832/23. Further R/C today, 23/9. D.D.I.C. 0130/24)
Guernsey, Jersey, Havre, Texel, Dutch Coast	} R/C by Aircraft, Night 23/24. (B.C. Summary No. 443)
Kiel & Emden	Air R/C at 1530/23. (P.I.U. 0225/24 and D.D.I.C. 0610/24 to Cs. in C.)
German Main Units	(D.D.I.C. 1550/24 to A.I.C.)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

NORTHWARD	Grimsby Trawler. Stranded on North Mungo Rock ½ mile N. of Cairnbulg Coastguard Lookout at 0241/24. All crew taken off by Fraserburgh Lifeboat. (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 0947/24 to Adty.)
BENARTY	British. 5800 tons. Due Durban 20/9. Not arrived. (S.O.1. Cape Town 0925.B/24)
KIOTO	British. 3297 tons. Left Liverpool 21/8 for Karachi. Not reported at Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.1. Capèe Town 0925.B/24)
ALBIONIC	British. 2468 tons. Due Holyhead 15/9 from Wabana. Not arrived. (D.S.385)
FILEFJELL	Norwegian Tanker. 7616 tons. Left Abadan 5/8 due Freetown 14/9. Not arrived. (D.S.385)
OOSTPLEIN	Dutch. 5059 tons. Due Buenos Ayres 4/9 from Methil. Not arrived. (D.S.385)
NEPTUNIAN	British. 5155 tons. Due Liverpool 11/9 from Sydney. Not arrived. (D.S.385)
BENGLOE	British. 5318 tons. Due Singapore 16/9 from Durban. Not arrived. (D.S.385)
LOCH INVER	H.M. Trawler. Your 1758/24. Regret vessel and crew must now be presumed lost. (F.O.I.C. Harwich. 2209/24 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

24. 9. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
HX.73	Amend my 1600/23. To alter course at 2000/24. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1400/24) Orders to escort (C.-in-C., W.A., 1700/24)
OB.217	OTTAWA and WALKER to remain with until dawn. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1700/24)
SC.4	Route. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1510/24)
OL.4	Route. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1600/24)
OB.218	Route (C.-in-C., W.A. 1620/24)
OA.217	To disperse at 1200/25. All escorts except GLEANER leave OG.43 at 1600/25 and join SL.47. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1910/24)
OG.43) SL.47)	Orders for escort from OA.217. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1910/24)
OA.218	Route. (C.-in C., W.A., 1610/24)
OB.219	Anchored off Bar. Keep to seawards until daylight. (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2001/24, to VAN QUISHER)
OA.219	Off Buchan Ness. (ABERDEEN, 2330/24) Number and escort. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0843/24 List, 0844/24)
BHX.77	Advance sailings. (N.C.S.O., Bermuda, 1201/24)
EMILE BAUDOT	Cable ship. To sail in W.N.18. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1715/24)
ULSTER MONARCH	Request A/S air escort (C.-in-C., H.F., 0915/24)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Local Policy

General de Gaulle, repeated Adty. From M.A. Broadcasts by Governor General and by Vichy Government together with opposition to your approach and our co-operation today amply demonstrates leader's and the Navy's determination to resist. Although morale is unexpectedly high we still feel that the reduction of fort and destruction of ships will lead to collapse of resistance in spite of probable land reinforcement which we now must expect. If ultimatum is not accepted by 0600 it is intended to proceed with the systematic destruction of defence later landing troops as required your troops co-operating. A message received by us from the Prime Minister encourages us in our determination to occupy Dakar come what may. (From (unsigned) to W.O., 0528/24).

Dakar Ultimatum and reply

Ultimatum delivered to Govr. of Dakar 2345/23. Reply received at 0400 that he will defend Dakar to the end. Communique for Ismay from De Gaulle for publication follows in plain language T.O.O. 2330 (F.O.C., Force M., 0450/24). Text of communique:- (F.O.C. Force M. 2330/25).

If as at present probable yesterday's visibility persists intend that only action to be taken will be air bombardment of defences. (F.O., Force M., 0438/24 to Adty.)

Following heard at 0443 G.M.T. by Lands End Radio: Dakar to Adm. Comdg. British Force. "France has entrusted Dakar to me. I will defend it to the last". (Lands End Radio, no T.O.O./24).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" (Contd.)

CUMBERLAND — Description of damage. (CUMBERLAND, 1137/24). Your 0510. Anchored entrance Bathurst. Report on damage and casualties will be sent L/T to Freetown for onward transmission. (CUMBERLAND to S.O., Force M., 1144/24). My 1137N/24. Feed water situation still critical, improving slowly. Hope to be able to steam 12 knots on starboard shafts with 3 boilers after 1800/25. (CUMBERLAND, 2115N/24).

Your 2201/23 (not to Adty.) Proceed to Bathurst to continue repairs, reporting. (S.O. Force M., 0510/24 to CUMBERLAND).

French Submarine — French submarine attempted attack on Battle Fleet. Depth charged by FORTUNE, submarine now on surface showing white flag. (S.O., Force M., 0844/24). Your 0844/24 re treatment of crew. (D.O.D.(F) to S.O., Force M., 1635/24).

PRIMAUGUET — French cruiser PRIMAUGUET 090OZ/24 position course and speed, 08°33' N., 20°06' W., 345°, 12 knots. (CORNWALL, 0937Z/24).

Bombardment resumed — Carried out bombardment of RICHELIEU and fort at 10,000 yards in poor visibility Fire of enemy slacking but neither ship nor fort silenced. Enemy fire very accurate for line but big spread. Air activity greatly increased hampering spotting reconnaissance. Am repeating bombardment this afternoon. Resistance continues determined. (S.O., Force M., 1155N/24).

Bombarded again this afternoon in similar visibility without apparent useful result from this or air bombardment carried out earlier. Reduction of defences and neutralisation of RICHELIEU and French cruisers present an impossible project for available forces in prevailing visibility and a most difficult operation for any force in any weather. While morale of defences remains as high as at present. Air action against our fleet is increasing. Am now proceeding to consult de Gaulle. (S.O., Force M., 1417N/24).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Situation — In continuation 1417/24. Landing operation in face of existing defence not practicable. Alternatives are (i) immediate withdrawal, (ii) continuation of systematic bombardment in hope resistance may collapse (unlikely). De Gaulle expressed surprise at magnitude and completeness of resistance. Suggests we inform Dakar that his express wish that bombardment should now cease. Instead, British naval forces continue to assure that French naval forces would be unable to operate against West African ports south of Dakar. He proposes to proceed Bathurst, to exercise troops, gauge public opinion in Senegal, and have time to consider further plans. We intend to make further effort to neutralise ships and fort tomorrow. If result inadequate, recommend adoption of De Gaulle's proposals. (S.O., Force M., 1936/24).

French Resolve — Special intelligence indicates at 1730 G.M.T. today following from Governor, Dakar, originated at 1410 was despatched to Libreville: I have received an ultimatum expiring at 5 O'clock. We are firmly resolved to resist. Should Dakar suffer an unhappy fate, let the fight continue everywhere else. Attack is now being made by English Forces. Boisson. (C. in C., S.A., 2037/24).

Enemy aircraft — Several aeroplanes believed to be of German and Italian nationality have flown over Tangier today. Apparently at least 7 Italian and German machines, category of planes unknown, from the E. in a S.W. direction, possibly making for Dakar. (Consul, Tangier, 1915/24).

FORTUNE. French submarine crew. — Intend sailing FORTUNE to refuel from CUMBERLAND at Bathurst 25/9. She has crew of French submarine referred to in my 0844/24, 76 in number. Request instructions re disposal. (S.O., Force M. to Adty., 2358/24).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Hermes" Contd.

Bombing of Gibraltar

Bombing by aircraft not identified owing to Alert approaching from S.W. commenced 1250 still in progress. One bomb fell near Mount remainder well to seaward. About 30 bombs dropped. (S.O.Force H., 1325/24)

My 1325. Heavy bombing continues. No serious damage to dockyard apparent. Some near RENOWN but no hits. Intend proceeding to sea as soon as there is a lull. (S.O., Force H., 1400/24)

My 1400. RENOWN leaving now with 4 Destroyers. No damage to ships. (S.O.Force H., 1528/24)

F.O.C.N.A. Reports dockyard steam generating plant out of action seriously damaged. Diesel generating set also out of action but hope to be in action shortly. RENOWN counts 150 heavy bombs of which 55 ashore including 12 in Dockyard, 20 in harbour, 75 in bay. Aircraft identified as French but very few seen owing to Levanter. (S.O.Force H. 1736/24)

My 1528. Am proceeding east until dark. Intend passing Europa Point westwards at 2200/24 and to cruise to westwards Gibraltar in readiness to carry out purport of your 0253/22. (S.O. Force H., 1744/24)

Formations French Aircraft began to bomb Gibraltar at 1250 starting at high level and followed by dive bombers. Defence hindered by patches low cloud. Many bombs dropped on Rock and sea. Fires started and damage to buildings. Few Military casualties. At 1845 hrs. raiders now appear passed. (Governor, Gib. 1655/24, 2337/24 to W.O.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Alboran Patrol	My 1710/23. Alboran Patrol has been withdrawn to position 50 miles east of Gibraltar. (S.O., Force H. 1134/24)
Gibraltar Bombed	Bombing of Gibraltar by French as reprisal for Dakar operations. (See Operation "Menace").
Funchal	Preparations for reception of British Forces being made. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1704/24).
PACHECO	Re unloading of ammunition. (D.T.S.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 0252/25).
Ammunition	Adty. 0252/25 LLANGOLLEN can be sailed 27/9 with following items. (F.O.C.N.A., 2124/24 to Adty.)

South Atlantic

Evacuees	My 1229/21. Durban will be port of disembarkation and families will be settled in small town on Natal Coast. (Capt. i/c Simonstown, 08322/24).
Overdue Ships	BENARTY due Durban 20/9 not arrived. KIOTO, Liverpool, 21/8 for Karachi not reported Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0925B/24).
WOLFE CILICIA	Patrol areas (escort of ARGUS for Clyde). (F.O.C.N.P., 1018/24). Intend sailing ARGUS with CILICIA, and WOLFE independently. (C. in C., S.A., 1815/24). Re escort, (D.O.D.(H), 2018/24).
A.P.3	7 transports, expected to pass boom at 0900. CANTON and CARNARVON CASTLE to escort to Cape. (C. in C., S.A., 1025N/24).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Raider Report BENARTY — On arrival Capetown BENDINNES reports that at 0930Z/10 in position 15.52 S., 71.28 E. She received raider report from BENARTY. During transmission jamming was attempted by station using DW of high pitched I.C.W. varying frequency during transmission and apparently calling GBMS 3. Shortly afterwards another ship repeated the raider report and jamming was attemted by a spark transmitter. (S.N.O., Simonstown, 1121/24).

Norwegian Ships — Your 1714/30/8. Matter referred to Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission. (Hd. of M. to N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 2102/24).

CLAN CAMPBELL A.P.3. — In A.P.3, defective boiler, maximum speed 12½ knots, intend sailing her independently to Durban. My 2125/23 speed of advance A.P.3 15½ knots. Estimated time of arrival. (C. in C., S.A., 1311/24).

Ammunition, Freetown — Re reserves of ammunition Freetown. If Force M to replenish Freetown suggest supplies be sent from Gibraltar now. (C. in C., S.A., 1935/24).

Mediterranean

Supply Ship — Informed by Governor that a War Office maintenance ship containing military and Malta Government supplies is expected to leave England early in October. Is this the ship referred to in para (ii) of your 2345/15. (M.O.I.C., Malta, 1015/24 to Adty.)

Operation B.S. — Orders for patrol line. (Capt. S.1, 1851/24, 1901/24).

Torpedo explosion — 2 officers 2 ratings from MEDWAY killed when examining torpedo, believed from Italian aircraft, found 6 miles west of Agami. (C. in C., Med., 2231/23).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

STRASBOURG	Report received STRASBOURG sailed from Marseilles or Toulon on 22/9 (B.2). (D.D.I.C. 1710/24).
THEOPHILE GAUTIER	My 1207/20. THEOPHILE GAUTIER sailing today for France from Beirut. Consul General states authorities have given a written guarantee that no cargo will be carried but I have given orders that ship is to be diverted by Naval Patrol into Haifa for formal examination by Contraband control consequent to her failure to obey orders to enter Haifa on her journey from Piraeus to Beirut. It is also my intention to allow any de Gaullists who wish to do so to disembark at Haifa as Consul General states a certain number are on board. (C. in C., Med., 1535/24). To be examined for contraband control and de Gaullists released. (C. in C., Med., 1537/24 to M.O.I.C. Haifa).
Raid on Tobruk	23/9. Following 2 attacks north foreshore and shipping Tobruk. 1500 hours 9 Blenheims. Bombs fell on buildings and jetty. A.A. heavy. 1503 hours by 9 Blenheims. Bombs fell on buildings in town and jetties and very near 5 ships moored at largest jetty. A.A. heavy. Gladiators 112 Sqdn. provided offensive patrol over forward area to cover bombers. All aircraft returned safely from above operation. 1530 hours. Reconnaissance No movements area Bardia, Tobruk, Bir El Gobi, Sidi Omar, Maddalena, Sofafi, Nizwet. 2 Sunderlands 228 Sqdn. reconnaissance Alexandria, Gavdo, Malta. Results not yet reported. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1049/24).
Convoy S.W.1	Sailing telegram. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area. 1728/24).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Air Operations, Port Sudan Raid, 22/9

22/9, 0245-0600 G.M.T. 1 Wellesley 14 Sqdn. anti-submarine patrol. No enemy sighted. 1 S.79 attacked Port Sudan, 8 heavy bombs, no damage, no casualties. Kenya, 22/9 S.A.A.F. patrols Mombasa and Garba Tulla area. One warship escorted out Mombasa. No enemy sighted. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1049/21 S.79 a/c raided Port Sudan 1030Z/22 at great height. 8 bombs dropped outside town boundary. 2 others flew over at greater height 23/9 without bombing. Probably intimidated by fighter patrol both cases. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 0524Z/24)

COLOMBO, A.K.2

To escort VARELLA to Mombasa leaving Aden 26/9. Route. Convoy (A.K.2) is not to approach within 40 miles Guardafric in daylight. (C. in C., E.I., 1230Z/24).

Troop Transport

Re proposed move of Indian Infantry Brigade to Malaya. (D. of S.T., to P.S.T.O., Bombay, 2007/24, 0845/25).

BM.6

Karachi departure 23/9 HECTOR with 3 ships of B.M.6 (S.O.I., Bombay, 0442Z/24).

CAP VARELLA

Requesting reply to his 0952/20 re CAP VARELLA, French authorities Saigon ask for her to go to Djibuti to fetch troops, left Saigon 18/9. (C. in C., E.I., 0736Z/24).

Dutch S/ms

Your 0547 re Dutch S/ms operating in Indian Ocean. Suitable fuel is available at Mauritius (C. in C., E.I., 1004Z/24).

Convoys

Amended dates for B.M.5½, U.S.5 and S.W.2. (C. in C., E.I., 1524/24).

China

Shipping, Indo-China

My 0210/22. Vichy reply gives hope that Vichy will finally agree to requests for continuation of British and Allied trade. Meanwhile Admiral Terraux asks, to facilitate negotiations, no British or Allied ships except tankers already arranged shall come to Indo-China. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0350 2/24).

Suspend.....

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

Shipping, Indo-China (Contd.) — Suspend sailings of British and Allied ships except tankers as previously arranged for French Indo-China ports till further orders (C. in C., China, 1153Z/24).

River Gunboats — Admiralty's 0948/22 and Commodore i/c Hong Kong 0551/23. Gunboats are to be sailed to Hong Kong as soon as ready provided weather suitable. Anticipated date of sailing is to be reported. N.L.O. is to inform local Japanese Naval authorities four days before sailing. (C. in C., China, 0405Z/24).

DURBAN — My 0405/24. DURBAN to sail to R.V. with gunboats from Shanghai as escort and if necessary provide fuel on passage to Hong Kong. (C. in C., China, 0801Z/24).

America and West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN — In event of war with Vichy Government, can Netherlands gunnery training ship VAN KINS BERGEN be used immediately? (C. in C., A.W.I., 0211/24 to Adty.)

PRINCE ROBERT — To maintain patrol off Manzanilla as long as fuel permits. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1002/24).

QUERCY — French cruiser. N.A. Washington's 1731/23. Not intended to take any operational action in this matter. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1657/24).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.9.40.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Ex-Norwegian Ships — Reported by Master of Dutch Merchant ship that Germans have ships nearing completion at time of invasion of Norway. These ships number unknown are motor vessels 7 - 8000 tons, speed 21 knots. Built to carry 5000 tons Palm oil and latex. Very similar to blue funnel "DEUCALION" class. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0435Z/24).

REGENSBURG, ELBE — Reporting Officer Yokohama reports REGENSBURG docked and now anchored outside outer breakwater, ELBE took oil 20/9 British Master observed much work proceeding in latter 29/8.

WINNETOU — Tokio source reports WINNETOU arrived with 5 officers and 11 members of crew only. Commentary. Remainder of Engine Room employed as prize crew. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0923Z/24).

NORD ATLANTIC — (C.2) reported to be undercommand of former Master of NORDMEER and to have taken more provisions than usual. (Consul Vigo, 1825/24).

BRAKE — Returned to moorings having finished discharge of her cargo. (Consul, Vigo, 1825/24).

DELOS — Arrived with 4200 tons manganese ore from Poti. (Macrae, Galatz, 1101/23).

NORBURG — Arrived with 3900 tons manganese ore from Poti. (Macrae, Galtaz, 1117/24).

YALOVA — Due Istanbul 26/9 with general cargo. (Macrae, Galatz, 1117/24).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DENTICE — Arrival GUNVOR and Italian ship DENTICE towed from Maracaibo 1939 S.L. (Puerto Cabello, 1701/24).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

THEOPHILE GAUTIER — C. in C., Med., 1535/24, 1537/24 - (See Mediteranean).

MOST SECRET

24. 9. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Attack on OB.216 (20/9)
BOKA
NEW SEVILLA
EMPIRE ADVENTURE

Survivors state BOKA, NEW SEVILLA, EMPIRE ADVENTURE in third column of convoy and in that order. BOKA torpedoed at approximately 2015/20, NEW SEVILLA at 2025 and EMPIRE ADVENTURE at 2045. NEW SEVILLA from Port quarter EMPIRE ADVENTURE from Port side. BOKA not yet established. Submarine believed sighted on surface at time of attack by NEW SEVILLA. (F.O.I.C., Belfast, 0950/24)

Convoy Attacks

There is some evidence to show that one method of U-Boat attack is on the surface between columns of convoy at night and astern of small beam tubes. To counter this it is essential convoy should be kept well closed up, the distance between columns being closed to three cables at least. Zig zag should be continued throughout the night whenever circumstances allow.
(C.-in-C., W.A., 1721/24)

BROOM PARK (Torpedoed 21/9)

Following received from ALDERGROVE : Escort K.46 with BROOMPARK steering 042 degrees 5 knots for Greenock 14 survivors from EMPIRE AIRMAN, DEOCAIN, DARIA and FREDERICK.
(F.O.I.C., Belfast, 2000/24)
Following received from LA MALOUINE via 15 Group R.A.F. M/V damaged BROOMPARK heading 060 degrees Magnetic. Position 55° 30' N., 7° 32' W., making for Greenock. 14 survivors were in K.46 from EMPIRE AIRMAN, DALCAIRN, DARINA (O.A.206) FREDERICK and BROOMPARK.
(C.-inC., W.A., 2153/24)

EMPIRE AIRMAN

British. 6586 tons, ex-Italian. Bound from Wabana for Cardiff with iron ore. Was in Convoy HX.72. Probably sunk on night of 21-22/9, approx. position 54° 00' N., 18° 00' W. 2 survivors landed in Greenock and others are in K.46. (D.S.386)

DALCAIRN

British. 4608 tons, in Convoy HX.72, homeward bound from Montreal with grain. Survivors in K.46. (D.S.386)

DAVILA

British tanker, 8053 tons, bound from Curacao to Clyde in Convoy HX.73. Survivors reported in K.46. (D.S.386 corrected D.S.387)

MOST SECRET

24. 9. 40.
Tuesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

	S/Ms Reported
0027	From Fair Island, suspected s/m on surface bearing 161° 17 miles at 0027. (F.O.C.O.S., 0055/24)
1231	Aircraft report s/m in 46° 56' N., 07° 38' W. at 1231 (V.A.S., 1252/24) Seen by Civil aircraft (B.I.)(D.S.386)
1141	D.F., unknown enemy unit, probably U/B 54° N., 13° W., reliable fix at 1141/24 (D.D.I.C. 1216/24)
1310	Indication of U/B in 53° 40' N., 16° 20' W., at 1310 (C.-in-C., W.A., 1413/24) Indications that U/B in position 53° 40' N., 16° 20' W., at 1310/24 is reporting and possibly following OB.217 (C.-in-C., W.A., 2013/24)
1326	D.F., unknown enemy unit probably U/B 56° N., 12° W., unreliable fix. Indications that second U/B in approx. 55° 40' N., 10° 30' W., at the sometime. (D.D.I.C., 1417/24, Aldersgrove to No.15 Group, 1530/24)
8121 Lorient	48° 30' N., 9° 30' W., position indefinite. (D.S.386) 2 or 3 U/Bs may be entering Lorient tomorrow. (F.O.(S) 1724/24)
2130/26/8	Colon reports master British motor vessel RODSLEY sighted submarine nationality unknown in position 054° 10' 020° 44' at 2130 (26/8. Submarine switched on searchlight third of minute but beam did not appear to reach vessel. Difficult to estimate distance as dark and misty but consider about 1 mile. S.O.I., Jamaica, 1315/24)
Estimated U/B Dispositions.	Italian - 1 off Portugal or farther South. German - 1 was apparently about 350 miles S.W. of Ireland at 0044/24. 1 was in about 50 degs. N.13 degs.W. at 1418/23 proceeding to Lorient.

4 in ..

MOST SECRET

24. 9. 40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Estimated U/B Dispositions (Contd.)

4 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in 54 degs. N., 13 degs. W. at 1141/24, 1 may have been in 53 degs. N., 15 degs. W. at 0206/23. Whereabouts of the fourth unknown.
1 off Fair Island at 0027/24 may be outward bound.

The one that sank 4 ships in Convoy OB.216 N. of Ireland was of 250 tons; must therefore have used her torpedoes and left the area. (D.D.I.C. 1340/24)

S/Ms Attacked

U/B Sunk by CACHALOT.

Have sunk enemy S/M in 46° 58' N., 05° 56' W., steering east. (CACHALOT, 2011/24)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

E-Boats Attack
[illegible]

[illegible] on passage from Aruba to Sheerness was attacked about midnight 24/25 by E-Boats off Lowestoft. Four torpedoes were fired without hitting, and the E-Boats retired under cover of a smoke screen.

Operation
"LIGHT"

This operation was cancelled at 2252 whilst the forces were proceeding.

CITY OF BENARES

A lifeboat with children in it was sighted by a Sunderland 150 miles west of Ireland this morning and ANTHONY, escorting H.X. 73 was ordered to the spot. The sea was too rough for the Sunderland to land, but food was dropped alongside by a second flying boat. ANTHONY took on board 46 survivors, including 6 children and is to leave HX 73 at daylight tomorrow to land them.

DESPATCH

Arrived in the Clyde today from the West Indies

British Air Operations

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on the enemy invasion ports. The main weight of the attacks was directed against Le Havre. Brest and shipping in harbour were attacked this evening and damage was caused in the port.

Cherbourg and gun positions at Heringsolles were also attacked last night.

At 1000 today an aircraft on patrol attacked a convoy of three ships off Terschelling and obtained direct hits with 250 lb. bombs. The leading ship was seen to be sinking when the aircraft left.

/Enemy Air...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Some damage was done to Messrs. White's works in a raid on Southampton yesterday It is anticipated that work will be resumed within a week. Some work can be continued on ships afloat.

Minor damage was done at Portland dockyard this morning and the water supply was affected. Bombs dropped on Mere Oil Fuel Depot caused no damage.

Slight damage was caused at Devonport Dockyard today in an attack on the Dockyard and ships in the sound. No ship was damaged. Slight damaged was caused at Worthy Down today by one bomb of a stick.
Portsmouth was attacked at noon, but no damage was caused.

A severe attack was made on Bristol late this forenoon and considerable damage and heavy casualties were caused at aircraft works.

Trawler STRATH FINELLA was machine-gunned in Cruden Bay this afternoon, but was not hit.

Convoy O.A. 218 was unsuccessfully attacked at 0830/25, 180 miles E. by N. of Bloody Foreland. The escorting Sunderland drove off the attacker

Convoy F.S. 89 was unsuccessfully attacked in the Thames Estuary early this afternoon.

Mining

Six Swordfish last night laid mines off Texel Island.

Enemy aircraft were engaged on mine-laying off the east coast of Scotland last night.

LL Sweepers detonated a mine off the East Shingles Buoy at 2130 today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Operation "Menace" and
French Ships

The bombardment of Dakar was resumed this morning. The enemy reply was accurate, RICHELIEU engaging BARHAM at 11½ miles range. BARHAM and AUSTRALIA were hit, and RESOLUTION was hit by on of 6 torpedoes fired by a submarine. FORESIGHT sank a submarine. Just before noon our forces broke off the engagement and withdrew. During the retirement RESOLUTION and the troop convoy were attacked by aircraft.

De Gaulle wishes his forces to reorganise at Freetown before further operations.

Just before midnight 25/26 H.M. Govt. decided that the operations should cease and the forces be withdrawn.

Gibraltar was heavily bombed again this afternoon. A/S Trawler STELLA SIRIUS was sunk. No serious damage was caused to the dockyard. The Army claim to have shot down 3 and possibly 4 of the raiders.

ECHO and FORTUNE were detached to refuel from CUMBERLAND at Bathurst early this morning. FORTUNE has on board the crew of the French submarine which she captured yesterday.

At 0500 today WRESTLER and VIGILANT engaged 4 destroyers which were passing the Straits from West to East. Touch was lost at 0547. The destroyers opened fire on WRESTLER without being challenged. They appeared to be French.

South Atlantic

ARGUS left Freetown at 1100 today for the Clyde, escorted by CILICIA.

PRIMAUGUET stopped at 1530Z today to fuel 700 tons from TAUN in 14° 15' N., 21° 57' (?) W. Fuelling was completed at 2215 and the French ships proceeded on course 15°.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Destroyers again successfully bombarded Sidi Barrani early a.m. today.

3 enemy aircraft appeared over Malta this morning, but no bombs were dropped One aircraft was shot down and one or two were severely damaged.

East Indies

A Blenheim dropped bombs at Berbera today. Another Blenheim reconnoitred Assab harbour and Massawa and dropped bombs.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME CONSTANTS

Defence of U.K.

HOME Signals

Humber 2, Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1, (D.C. 0818/25)
Humber 2, Nore 2, Dover 1, Channel 1, (D.D.I.C. 1400/25)

Nore Command Notice for Steam

Air R/C unsatisfactory. Keep steam at half an hours notice until 0900. (C. in C., Nore, 0541/25)

Scapa and Invtt Aerodromes A/A Gun Defences

Your 1904/19. 4 heavy A/A Guns and 4 light A/A Guns being moved from H. M. Hatston, and Kirkwall to defend these aerodromes. Request these guns may be replaced as soon aspossible in view of great importance of defence of Fleet's Main Base. (A.C.C.S. 1727/24 to Adty.)

Portsmouth Command State of Readiness

Proposed variation of present arrangements for Destroyers and Cruisers according to "Deluge" signals, to save wear and tear of existing daily movements to Spithead. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1803/25 to Adty.) (C. in C., Portsmouth 1317/26 to Adty.)

Movements

Northern Patrol

My 1530/24 PATROCLUS delayed until 1700/25 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1000/25 to Adty.) In view of C. in C., S.A.'s 1015/24, amend my 1019/24 to read CILICIA take Area A.3. and WOLFE take Area B.3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1020/25 to WOLFE)

1st Towns Flotilla

My 1939/22. Request you sail 1st Towns Flotilla for Plymouth when ready. They should pass Hartland Point at 0630 (C. in C., W.A. 1957/25 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

Nore Command

Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/26 (C. in C., Nore, 1200/25)

BIRMINGHAM

C.S. 18's 2313/24. Expect arrive 0300/27 (BIRMINGHAM 1442/25 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

/Dover.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.2040.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Dover

Patrols for night 25/26. (V.A.Dover, 1502/25)

Orkneys

Movements for night 25/26. (F.O.C.O.S. 1531/25)
Trawlers lines occupied Night 25/26 (A.C.O.S. 1536/25)
State of A/S Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1930/25)

JAVELIN
JAGUAR

Depart Number 1940/25 for Patrol U. (F.O.Number 1945/25 to Adty.)

Rosyth Area

Movements for night 25/26. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2150/25)

DUNEDIN
DESPATCH

Request you sail DUNEDIN and DESPATCH to comply with s.m. 1326/25.
On completing fitting Ships to be sailed up channel by night arriving Nab at daylight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2307/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

FALCONET

Boom Defence Vessel. Request Fighter Protection from 0700 to 1130/26 from Dover to 40° Dungeness 4 miles and return. (V.A.Dover 2321/25 to A.O. C. in C., F.C.)

Operation "LUCID"

R.V. Force B. is now 2300/25. Ships should be sailed accordingly. Progress of WAR NAWAB is to be reported every 3 hours. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0158/25)

Portsmouth Force

CHAIN"

Following movements are to take place 4 M.A./S.B's for the operation to sail from Newhaven in company with the Dover M.F. Vessels so as to R.V. with WITHERINGTON 242° Lydd Lt.V. 12' at 2000/25. WAR NAWAB escorted by WITHERINGTON, BEAGLE to be at R.V. 165° Dungeness 3½' 2300/25. Code word "CHAIN". WOLVERINE, WITCH to R.V. with fleet sweepers, (HIGER, SELKIRK, KLAIN) from Nore of Dungeness 2300/25.

/Air cover...

HOME WATERS

Operation-"LUCID" Contd.

"ALPHA"

Air cover will be provided from 1830 until dark. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0207/25, 0717/25, 0825/25)
Arrangements by C. in C., Nore (C. in C., Nore, 0240/25)
Asking for fighter protection for WAR NIZAM, GARTH, NIGER, SUKKUR, ELGIN 1700/25 until dark. (C. in C., Nore, 0940/25)
Appendix One and Two. (D.D.I.C. 1035/25, 1600/25)
Carry out Operation "LUCID" (A.C.N.S. (H) 1033/25)
Fighter protection ordered. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0942/25)

4 M.A/S.B's

Subsequent to operation 4 M.A./S.B's are to be detailed for C.W. Convoy to proceed to Dover and be ready there complete with fuel 1900/25 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1225/25)

WITHERINGTON

Position (WITHERINGTON 1805/25) M.A/S.B's not joined. Wind N.E. 3 to 4 (WITHERINGTON 2110/25) Speed 6 knots (WITHERINGTON 2200/25)

Lights

As R.V. for Force A. (C. in C., Nore, 2055/25)

Weather

Not very favourable for M.F.B's (C. in C., Nore, 2202/25) Wind may serve better for Force B than Force A. Force B has better target and should proceed if practicable. If Force A is cancelled destroyers should visit Calais Road to look for merchant vessel targets. (C. in C., Nore, 2214/25)

Operation Cancelled

Operation "LUCID" cancelled (Capt.D 21 2258/25 to C. in C., Nore) Have cancelled operation "LUCID" owing to (a) speed of oiler WAR NIZAM reduced to 4-5 knots with engine trouble and (b) direction of wind unfavourable for Force B (Capt D. 21 2258/25) Force B concentrated at R.V. proceeding Southend destroyers returning to Portsmouth (WOLVERINE 2331/25)

Jan Mayen

Propose sending FRIDTJOF NANSEN to visit Jan Mayen leaving Reykjavik 28/9 to see if island has been visited and to liquidate reserve station. Ice conditions Denmark Straits northwards to be investigated en passage. (N.O.i/c Iceland, 0307/25)

/Operation C.I.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Operation G.L. — Patrol is to be established tonight as during last night. (C. in C., W.A., to N.O.i/c Dartmouth)

BROKE, VANSITTART, WANDSUER, WHITEHALL, BLYSKAWICA and GARLAND sail 1930/28 to sweep from Roches Douvres to Ile Vierge returning Plymouth 0730/26. (C in C., W.A., 1617/28)

Patrol in Channel — Tonight STURDY, BULLDOG, VISCOUNT, VOLUNTEER patrol Eastward to limit of Portsmouth Command and southward to Lat. 50° 5' N., (C. in C., Portsmouth 1633/28)

Submarines

URSULA — To leave Patrol 0100/26 and R/V with escort at end of G.Z.S. 169. (Capt. S.S 1441/25)

Positions — Nor following 24 hours at 0700/26 (V.A.S.1658/25)

Portsmouth Command — Movements. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1801/25)

E-Boats

Off Southwold — 4 Torpedoes passed close ahead at 0001/25. No hits. E-Boats retired under smoke screen. Position 52° 24' N., 2° 2' E., (HMSBUS 0004/ 0012, and 0020/25)

British Air Operations

Bomber Command — Intelligence Summary No. 45. Report of operations night 24/25 (H.Q.B.C. TMI 1657/25)

Holder — At 0353/25 in 52° 50' N., 4° 55' E., A/C attacked a Tanker about 6000 tons with one Torpedo. Close miss. (Chatham A.O.R., 1045/25)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations

S.O.S.	Rescue crew of German aircraft 40 km (25 miles) East of Kinnaird Head. (Norddrich Radio TOR. 0915/25, D.D.I.C., 1042/25).
Southampton	Messrs. White's, Itchen report some damage to premises during yesterday's raid; also water and other services cut and access to works blocked. Some work can be continued on ships afloat but workshops out of use for short period. Anticipate resumption within a week, not proposed to transfer any work else where (F.O.I.C. Southampton, 1157/25).
Sandbanks	M.G. attack by one aircraft but approx. 50 to 60 overhead. No damage or casualties. (R.A.N.A.S. 1245/25).
Portland	Air attack started at 1117. Approx. 50 bombers with fighters passed over, some of which dropped bombs on Mere Oil Fuel Depot, no damage caused. Damage to road and water supply to dockyard, minor damage in dockyard. (F.O.I.C., Portland 1614/25).
VIMIERA Convoy "Booty"	Shadowed in 51.36 N., 1.11 E. (VIMIERA, 1637/25).
Devonport	High level bombing attack by approx. 30 a/c between 1630-1700/25 on Dockyard and ships in Sound. No serious casualties or damage in ships or Naval establishments. Damage at No.8 Wharf north dockyard. Gunn wharf jetty damaged. (C. in C., W.A., 1938/25).
Worthy Down	One bomb of a stick damaged water main. No casualties. (Worthy Down, 2140/25).
STRATHFIELLA	Trawler. Machine gunned 1520/25 in Couden Bay. No hits. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2259/25).

MOST SECRET

H.M.T. PLATO

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME WATERS

Mining

CADET TWO — Minesweepers will be operating near W.V. 2596 and Eastern Swept Channel from 0630 to 1600/25. Provide usual Cover. (H.Q.F.C. 0140/25)

Operation M.L. — Your 2314/24. Position 51° 6' N., 1° 32' 30" E., in direction 216°, 4½ miles. Intend sailing 0600/26 arriving Aldeburgh 1600 (PLOVER 1000 to V.A.Dover)

Your 1436/13 and H.A.M.L. 150/M.L. 01044/1 of 16/9 paras 5 and 6. Request these Minefields may be promulgated by C.E.W. Message or other quick means with direction that H.M. ships should not enter area unnecessarily (C. in C., N.F. 1831/25 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Brant — R/C by A/C at 1115/25. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1300/25 to Adty.)

Off Helgoland — At 1045/25, one large M/V convoyed by 3 small ships in 51° 43' N., 3° 9' E., and one 15,000 ton M/V in 51° 47' N., 3° 7' E., (V.A.S. 1429/25 to S/M H. 44.)

North Hon — 4 small ships at 1050 in 57° 45' N., 3° 17' E., steering N.E. (V.A.S. 1451/25 to S/M O.21)

Boulogne — 5000 ton Tanker passing Boulogne at 1530, steering S.W. (Capt. S.S. 1755/25)

Cherbourg — R/C by A/C at 0725/25 (D.D.I.C. 1637/25)

MOST SECRET

25. 9. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

KELPIE — A.P. Motor Yacht. In collision with GULF STREAM when on Patrol at 0450/25. Unseaworthy pending repair to Hull and Deck. Damage to GULF STREAM superficial. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1251/25 to C.-in-C. Rosyth) Request you arrange for KELPIE to be repaired at St. Monans or Anstruther. (S.O.A.P. Leith 1830/25 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

AUDITOR — My 1045/19. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1225.R/25 to Adty.)

KIOTO. — My 0925.R/24. Arrived Cape Town. (N.S.O.1. Cape Town 1035.R/25 to Adty.)

THEMISTOCLES — British. 11,231 tons. Due Durban from Glasgow 21/9. Not arrived. (N.S.O.1 Cape Town 1035.R/25 to Adty.)

DALSEY — British. 4640 tons. Due Durban from Freetown 21/9. Not arrived (N.S.O.1. Cape Town. 1035.R/25 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25. 9.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.A. 218	ARCTIC EXPLORER to join (C. in C., W.A. 1040/25) Clyde portion arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1800/25)
O.A. 219	Passed Buchan ess (2300/24 (A.C.O.S. 0055/25)
F.N. & F.S.	Time tables from F.N.92 and F.S. 92 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1730/25)
H.X. 73	ANTHONY to leave to land 46 survivors from CITY OF BENARES. (C. in C., W.A., 2237/25)
W.N. 18	CAMELIA to escort (C. in C., W.A., 1340/25)
O.B. 217.	OTTAWA to shadow (C. in C., W.A., 1019/25) Am cruising in vicinity of general line of advance. (OTTAWA, 1836/25)
O.B. 219.	Sailed SAINT ZENO to R.V. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2002/25) List (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0901/25)
F.S. 90	A/S trawler LORD FLEMING to continue escort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2201/25)
A.O. 220.	CURACOA to meet and give A/A cover R.A.D.H.F., 1625/25)
O.A. 222	Route (D.T.D., 1730/25)
S.L. 47	Meet. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1330/25)
O.L. 5.	Route (D.T.D. 1751/25)
ULSTER MONARCH	Position (A.C.O.S., 2001/25)
FRISIA	Swedish, 1059 tons seized by German Authorities at Bordeaux. Case to be tried by Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 387

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Policy

From Prime Minister to Combined Command:- Your 1141M/24 give no indication of your plans, difficulties and how you propose to meet them.
Do not understand conditions under which bombardment proceeded for some hours at 10,000 yards without grave damage to ships or fort unless visibility was so bad as to make targets invisible. Also if visibility bad, why not possible to force a landing at beaches near Rufisque in spite of fire from Goree Island.
Without fuller information, we can only ask why you do not land in force by night or in the fog or both on beaches near Rufisque and take Rufisque for a start, observing that enemy cannot be heart-whole and force at Rufisque is comprised largely of native troops.
If weather clears you could hold down batteries on Goree Island in daylight by long-range sea-fire and if there is fog you would not need to do so.
It should be possible to feed the force, once ashore, by night. This force once landed ought to be able to advance on Dakar.
More ammunition is being sent from Gibraltar but evidently supplies will not stand many days firing like yesterday. Neither is there unlimited time as not only the French but German submarines will probably arrive in six or seven days.
Pray act as you think best, but meanwhile give reasoned answer to these points. Matter must be pushed to conclusion without undue delay.
(1st Sea Lord, 0005/25 to S.O. Force H)

Situation

My 2359/23. Further ultimatum was presented to Vichy authorities in Dakar on Monday night which expired at 0600/24.
This was refused and in consequence bombardment of the forts was carried out during the forenoon and afternoon without conclusive results.
Determination to resist was strong.
Operations being continued.

/Gibraltar.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Situation-Contd. Gibraltar was bombed by French aircraft operating from North Africa. RENOWN and 4 destroyers have put to sea, proceeding to the westward. (1st S.L. 0156/25, to Cs in C)

Summary, 24/9. From M.A. for Prime Minister. Plans were three fold to meet any situation that developed but all were based as stated in our M.N.G.1 and M.N.G.2 and our C0146/18 on prior reduction of at least main armament of Fort. To this must be added cruisers and Fantasques. Plans were.
(a) Main landing at Rufisque
(b) Combined landing Rufisque and Hann Bay
(c) Main landing at Hann Bay
First day proved violent and complete opposition to de Gaulle and throughout bad visibility necessitating closing Fort to 4000 yards fire of Fort and Ships extremely accurate which resulted in damage to CUMBERLAND and Destroyers.
(d) (i) De Gaulle's plan to land Rufisque peacably negatived by opposition and darkness thereafter fog rendered approach by night to Rufisque beach impossible.
Situation obsure and force scattered in fog.
(d) (ii) Confirmed that determination and accuracy of fire of Fort and activity of cruisers and Fantasques operating from cover of Fort. Visibility again poor necessitating battleship unscreened closing to 10,000 yards even then Fort opened accurate fire 10 minutes before being sighted by ships. During approach of light craft repeatedly straddled, many near misses and during bombardment BARHAM hit 4 times 3 being 9.4 inch or above without serious damage.
Activity of submarines confirmed and another arrived.

Bad visibility heavy A.A. fire and fighter interfering with reconnaissance and offensive action and by darkness only damage believed inflicted one Fantasque and one submarine, leaving defence particularly cruisers and Fantasques virtually unimpaired and landing Rufisque expected.
Under these conditions plan (a) not considered practicable. Limitation caused by expenditure of ammunition and fuel fully appreciated. Also approach of reinforcements Essential to immobilize cruisers and neutralize main armament of Fort before can maintain (? temporarily) secure landing.
As stated in my 1936/24 propose to continue today and if landing practicable will be undertaken. (F.O. Force M., 0344/25, amended 0821/25, 1120/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" Contd.

Destroyers My 2358/24. ECHO and FORTUNE detached to fuel at Bathurst. (S.O.Force M., 0606N/25)

RESOLUTION Hit RESOLUTION torpedoed, withdrawing with heavy ships. Covering RESOLUTION withdrawal, damage appears serious. Engaged by French RICHELIEU two gun salvoes and by shore batteries. Observation minefield apparently in position 8 to 10 miles S.W. of Gorée. Submarine sunk by FORESIGHT. (S.O.Force M., 0936/25)
RESOLUTION reports 2 boiler rooms and engine room intact but reduced to 12 knots to avoid strain on bulkheads until extent of damage is located, time of receipt 0900 (S.O., Force M., 1011/25)

French Report To General de Gaulle. Arrived from Dakar after having cut all telegraphic and telephonic communications of Dakar. A late message from Boisson and G.O.C. Dakar asked for speedy help of French troops of Sudan to protect Dakar. Troops at Dakar and Thies have only about two months training.
Request plane to come to Bathurst to convey me to you. Bois Lambert was in Dakar with an administrator on 23/9.
Brunel Macoun and Richard arrived Bathurst 0300 G.M.T. (Brunel to S.O.,Force M., 0635M/25)

Government Decision To M.A. from Prime Minister. Part 1.
On all information now before us, including damage to RESOLUTION, we have decided that enterprise against Dakar should be abandoned, the obvious evil consequences being faced. Unless something has happened which we do not know which makes you wish to attempt landing in force, your should forthwith break off. You should inform us most immediate whether you concur, but, unless the position has entirely changed in our favour, you should not actually begin landing till you receive our reply. (1st S.L. 1327/25)

/Part II.. ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"-Contd.

Part II. Assuming enterprise abandoned, we shall endeavour to cover Duala by Naval force, but we cannot safeguard de Gaulle's forces at Bathurst. Question of reinforcing Freetown with troops is being considered. Instructions regarding disposal of remainder of forces will be given on receipt of your reply. (1st S.L. 1328/25)

Break-Off — From M.A. to Prime Minister. Your 1328. Concur in breaking off. (S.O. Force M., 1430N/25)

Force H View — My appreciation of situation. Outcome appears problematical. Longer continued, greater the stimulus for French air and naval forces to continue active operations against us in W. Med. Vulnerability of Gibraltar to air attack etc., suggest if we are to maintain effective control of Straits present situation should be liquidated as soon as possible. (F.O. Force H., to Admty. 1024/25)

French Aircraft — My 1800/24. Jacques states some aeroplanes number unknown have gone to Dakar from French Morocco to resist de Gaulle. Please warn squadron Dakar. (Consul-Gen. Tangier, 1040/25, to F,O,C,NA)

Cameroons — For Gen. de Gaulle from Col Le Clerc, Governor of Free French Cameroons. The Cameroons ready to respond to your call whatever it may be. (Brit. V. Consul, Duala, 1116/25, to C. in C., S.A.)

Summary of Operation — My 0936/25 and 1936/24. During approach French battleship RICHELIEU engaged BARHAM at 25,000 yards as squadron passed moored buoy, probably sea listening device. While turning on to bombardment line 16,000 yards Goree at 0900 six torpedoes crossed line. RESOLUTION hit by one, BARHAM just avoided. Bombardment carried out by BARHAM and cruiser in extreme visibility but shore defence and RICHELIEU effectively smoke-screened BARHAM and AUSTRALIA hit. Enemy fire deliberate and accurate. After 3 attempts in widely varying gunnery conditions result obviously negative and defences including cruisers and destroyers operating under cover of battery remain intact.

/This.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Summary of Operation, Contd. This together with evidence of fire control by listening device probable moored mine make entry of transport even by night impracticable to effect landing of troops. Regret must now recommend adopting de Gaulles proposal. Meanwhile continuing withdrawal of whole force to southward. RESOLUTION and troop convoy attacked by aircraft during withdrawal. (F.O. Force M., 1152N/25)

Bathurst Reports Letters from Boislambert for de Gaulle dated 19/9 before he left Bathurst. Information most out of date. (C. in C., S.A to S.O. Force M. 1201/25)

De Larinnes asks to be kept informed of de Gaulle's position. (Consul-General Leopoldville, 1441/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

Force M. RESOLUTION escorted by BARHAM, AUSTRALIA, DEVONSHIRE and destroyer screen in position 13.23' N., 17.45' W., at 1800/25 proceeding to Freetown at 8 knots. RESOLUTION has reduced list from 12 to 9 degrees without flooding but is unlikely to reduce it further and draws about 40 ft amidships and 36 ft 9 in forward. Weather fine, slight northerly swell. (S.O., Force M., 1837/25)

CUMBERLAND If returning to Freetown, forward by L/T before leaving Bathurst list of urgent repairs considered to be within capacity of VINDICTIVE. (C. in C., S.A., to CUMBERLAND 1901/25)

De Gaulle for Konakri Following from de Gaulle. Have decided to go direct to Konakri and land my troops there. My intention is to rally French Guinea and march on Bamako with view to eventually operating against Dakar. Request to be covered by fleet during landing. Suggest Force A goes to Freetown from where they could act in support if needed. (F.O., Force M., 1909N/25)

My 1909N/25. If de Gaulle's project approved, only DEVONSHIRE and AUSTRALIA will be available from Force M. for support on earliest probable date of landing, viz., 27/9. Destroyer short fuel and required for screening our force. (S.O., Force M., 1949/25)

/De Gaulle.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation"Menace" -Contd.

De Gaulle for Freetown

My 1909/25. De Gaulle now wishes his forces to go first to Freetown to reorganise. (S.O.Force H., 2224/25)

Force H.s

Add to Admty., 0253/22. Ships must be prepared for attack but must not fire the first shot. If ships proceed to the northward action is to be taken as in para (2) (A.C.N.S. (F) to S.O., Force H., 1723/25)

F.O.Force H 1909/25. If my 2015/25 is approved CORNWALL and possible DELHI might assist Information at Freetown no naval force at landing on (? morning) 25th/9 (Guns ashore) Force A could not be accommodated on shore (?Freetown) except to allocate one battalion but presumably could live in ships for some period. (C. in C., S.A., 2319N/25)

Force "H"

DRAGON proceed with British troops convoy and FURY all best speed to Freetown. MILFORD and BRIDGEWATER join me 0600/26 in 11° N., 17° 45' W., if fuel permits. (S.O.Force H., 1758/25)

ARK ROYAL AUSTRALIA

ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA unless urgently required by you are to Clyde forthwith in company without destroyer escort. (1st S.L., to S.O.Force., H. 2311/25)

Dakar Reports

Information from Dakar dated 18/9 for de Gaulle (Actg. Govr. Freetown, 2350N/25 to Admty. and Force H.)

Withdrawal

Continued and resolute resistance experienced today from French Forces at Dakar made unopposed landing of troops impossible. In consequence, H.M.G. decided that operations should cease and forces be withdrawn. French reactions to our action at Dakar may continue. (1st S.L., 2359/25 to Cs. in C.,)

/French warship.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"- Contd.

French Warship Status

Air attacks on Gibraltar and operations off Dakar do not alter existing instructions whereby for the present French warships under control of Vichy French Govt. are to be treated as neutral vessels if approaching a defended port. This confirms my 76187 (M.O.1) of 12/7/20. (War Office to Gs. in C., no T.O.O. 25/9)

Bombing of Gibraltar

25/9.

Heavy bombing continued from 1445 to 1630 this afternoon, 25/9. 23 attacks, more than 100 bombs dropped, about 60 on shore. A/S trawler STELLA SIRIUS sunk. Approx 2 officers and 12 ratings killed, ?43 ratings injured. No serious damage to dockyard so far as ascertained. (F.O.C.N.A., 1930/25)

Preliminary report. Warning of approach of several waves of French aircraft received 1430 hours. First wave arrived 1445 hours followed by about 25 more. Estimated number of aircraft over 100, which probably dropped over 300 bombs. Considerable damage to buildings including a large fire. Enemy planes shot down- certain three, possible two more. Casualties not known- believed slight. Some damage done to equipment. Air raid ended 1655 hours. (Govr., Gib., 1946/25)

24/9.

Air raid on Tuesday 24/9. Attack made by about 40 French machines which were rarely seen owing to low Levanter clouds. About 150 bombs dropped of which about 50 fell ashore including 9 in Dockyard about 20 in harbour and remainder in Bay. Details of damage (none to dockyard) Casualties in dockyard- killed none, slightly injured seven. (A/S., Gib., 1938/25 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Enemy Destroyers

4 enemy destroyers bearing 180 degrees distance 1 mile course 090 Europa Point 7 miles. (CHARLES MCIVER, armed boarding vessel, 0456/25)

My 0456. 4 unidentified destroyers passed eastbound at high speed, 1 had 3 funnels. (CHARLES MCIVER, 0500/25)

Gunfire to southward of Almina. (WISHART, 0514/25)

4 enemy destroyers bearing 310 degrees distance 3 miles course unknown, position 090 AIM 3. (WRESTLER, 0510/25)

WRESTLER Engaged

Am engaging enemy. (WRESTLER, 0518/25)
Am being attacked by enemy (WRESTLER, 0519/25)

Flashes of guns east of ? Quiet now. (CHARLES MCIVER 0525/25)

Enemy out of sight to eastward. (WRESTLER 0526/25)

Four enemy destroyers bearing 180 degrees., distant 5 miles, course 090 degs. My position o3? AIM 8. (WISHART, 0529/25)

My 0529. Enemy's speed 25 knots. (WISHART, 0531/25)

Am proceeding east in pursuit (WISHART 0535/25)

Am returning to patrol. (WRESTLER, 0557/25)

/French Warships.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

French Warships Treatment

In view of heavy French air attack on Gibraltar yesterday and of Dakar action, urgently request orders re engaging French warships passing through Straits with coast defence armament. Suggest all be regarded as hostile and engaged other than making recognition signal as a de Gaulle ship. (Govr., Gib., to W.O. for 1st S.L. 1251/25. Your 1251 Orders in 76187 M.O.I. 12/7 must still hold good. (W.O., 1740/25 to Govr. Gib. (For further reply see Operation "Menace")

Italian Submarine Report

Between 27/9 and 30/9 3 to 6 Italian S/Ms will arrive off Estepona or Marbella. They will arrive from Italy making their first land fall near Capp Prime.
They will wait about 5 miles off coast in Estepona area until they receive orders from (? Italy) (how transmitted not known) to pass through Straits. Most suitable time to pass is considered between 1930 and 2100 hours. (N.A.Madrid, 1818/25)

Vigo, Report

Master S.S. CORTES (Mc Andrews) just arrived from Vigo reports sighting passenger ship accompanied by a mysterious (?conducting) cruiser steering northerly course.
Assumed her to be French by build. Ten miles from coast.
Also sighted steam trawler entering Vigo as he left. Was flying Italian Flag and in her usual (corrupt group) position.
CORTES left Vigo 1400/25. (Consul-Gen., Lisbon, 1945/25)

PACHECO

Re unloading of ammunition, and loading other in lieue frp Freetown. (D.T.S.D., 0252/25 to F.O.C.N.A.,) Cancelled, (D.T.S.D. 1950/25)

ARK ROYAL

Your 1059/25. R.D.F. Cannot be fitted in ARK ROYAL, major refit and total reconstruction of mast would be necessary. Work could not be carried out at Gibraltar. Regretted FURIOUS cannot be spared from Home Fleet during absence of ARK ROYAL. (Ad of M. to S.O. Force H., 2015/25)
Your 2311/25. ARK ROYAL has on board 2/3 total stength of pilots and aircraft of Y flight and for all observers. Important they should be disembarked before ARK ROYAL (?) (?C. in C., S.A., to Adty., 2317H/25)

Gibraltar Raid

By French aircraft, 1445 to 1655 (See Operation "Menace")

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

PRIMAUGUET (Contd.)

Propose CORNWALL inform PRIMAUGUET tonight 26/9 or early 27/9 that he will accept his undertaking to proceed Casablanca with tanker and then discontinue escort. CORNWALL and DELHI to return to Freetown unless required by S.O. Force M. (C. in C., S.A., to Admty., 2005N/15)

Your 2015/25. Approved to take action proposed early to-day, 26/9. (1st S.L., C121/26)

PRIMAUGUET finished fuelling proceeded 2215 ahead from position 14.15' N., 21.57' W., course 015°, 12 knots. (CORNWALL, 2250Z/25)

Convoy A.F. 3.

CANTON and CARNARVON CASTLE to escort from Capetown until relieved. N.O.I.C. Simonstown to route convoy from Cape. (C. in C., S.A., 0201/25) My 0201/25. My 1311/24 and 1317/24 refer (C. in C., S.A., 1636/25. Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1424/25 My 0201/25. After 2 days at Simonstown, CANTON is to proceed for Freetown. Route Patrol intentions for CARNARVON CASTLE and CANTON. (C. in C., S.A., 1523/25)
Departure 1000/25, CARNARVON CASTLE for Capetown with Convoy A.F.3., including ULSTER PRINCE. CLAN CAMPBELL proceeding independently to Durban. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1437N/25)
Your 1311/24. Defer sailing of CLAN CAMPBELL pending further instructions. (D.O.D., F.O., to C. in C., S.A., 1724/25)

ARGUS
WOLFE
CILICIA

My 1815/24. Owing to water requirements, sailing of WOLFE delayed till 0600/26. ARGUS and CILICIA sailed 1100/25. (C. in C., S.A., 1209N/25) (S.O.I., Freetown, 1323/25) Route. (C. in C., S.A., 1335N/25) My 1819/23 and 1815/24. WOLFE delayed watering. Sails 0630/26. (C. in C., S.A., 1931/25) R.V. for ARGUS and destroyer escort. (C. in C., W.A., 2007/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Raider Reports

My 1400/4/8. Additional information concerning jamming from ST. LINDSAY. (C. in C., S.A., 0731N/25)

Overdue Ships

My 0925B/24. KIOTO arrived Capetown. THEMISTOCLES from Glasgow, DALEBY from Freetown both due Durban 21/9, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 10358/25)

My 1045/19. AUDITOR arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1225B/25)

ENTERPRISE
QUEEN OF BERMUDA
ASTURIAS

Orders for patrols and visits (R.A.S.A.D. 1325Z/25)

PRIMAUGUET

French cruiser PRIMAUGUET 0900Z/25 Position 013° 05' N., 021° 28' W., Course 345° 12 knots has just reported she must fuel today 25/9, or tomorrow morning at the latest- she proposes Porto Praya or St. Vincent or the Lee of Boavista. Suggest Lee of Boavista if you agree as Bathurst presumably undesireable. Request early decision. (CORNWALL, 1042Z/25)

My 1042Z/25. If PRIMAUGUET fuels in neutral waters he promises to keep a rendezvous selected by me. His word may be trusted H did not commit himself about fuel at parley on 19/9 and point was not pressed home, on account of delicate situation. Fuelling in open sea not possible. (CORNWALL, 1234Z/25)

Your 1044/25 and 1234Z/25. PRIMAUGUET is to fuel lee of Boavista. Report R.V. selected. (C. in C., S.A., to CORNWALL, 1633/25)

My 1042Z/25. PRIMAUGUET is trying to fuel at sea from TARN, position 14.13' N., 21.47' W., stopped since 1530Z requiring 700 tons. (CORNWALL, 1648Z/25)

/Propose.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Raider Reports

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/Propose.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

KENT	Asking if repairs can be undertaken at Bombay. (Controller to F.O.C.R.I.N., 1230/25)
Operation	Your 0937/17. No firm date can yet be given but earliest date possible for ship to leave U.K. (notified) (A.C.N.S., F., to C. in C., Med., 1754/25)
Situation Alexandria	Asking for early indication of government policy in regard to Dakar and Gibraltar. At present, status quo between ourselves and French ships at Alexandria is being preserved. Observations. (C. in C., Med., 1759/25, to Admty)
Operation	My 1637/24. Para A (No trace in W.R.) Operation has been temporarily postponed. (C. in C., Med., to Adty., 1849/25)
Haifa Defences	Your 1829/9. Concur. Your 0027/27/8. No intention of reducing Haifa coast defences, but 6-in guns allocated to Carmel Battery diverted to urgent home requirements. as also three 6-in guns earmarked for Mersa Matruh. Little liklihood of early replacement of any of Turks' guns. (D. of L.D., to C. in C., Med., 1957/25)
Submarines.	Departure p.m./25, RORQUAL and French S/M NARVAL for patrol. N.O.I.C., Malta, 2003/25)
Air Raid	Air raid this morning by 8 Macchis, 1 shot down, pilot killed, 1 probable and another hoped for as pieces dropped off. No bombs dropped. (V.A.Malta, 2117/25)
Small Submarines	Admty, 2202/23. Subject to remarks by V.A.Mlta, welcome arrangements and consider it practicable with small S/Ms which could be berthed inconspicuously. (C. in C., Med., 1019/25)
Turkey and Dakar	Closely interested in view of repercussions Syria. (Wolfrom, 1630/25)
Sidi Barrani Bombarded	Attack on target near Sidi Barrani was successfully carried out on the night of 24/25/9 by HYPERION, HEREWARD, JUNO, MOHAWK. A large fire accompanied by a number of explosions was started and the fire was still visible two hours after attack (C. in C., Med. 2359/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Persian Gulf — My 1746/25/8. Can decision be given regarding establishment of Contraband Control in Persian Gulf? Intentions.,(C., in C., E.I., 0312Z/25)

Kilindini — My 1834/13, At request of C.O.C., N.O.I.C. Kilindini has requisitioned auxiliary sailing vessel LINDI (particulars) (C. in C., E.I., 0730Z/25)

Troop Convoys — Reply to D. of S.T., 2007/24 (S.S.T.O., Bombay, 1050Z/25) My 0828/15. Convoy C.M.3. now leaves Durban 27/9. (C. in C., E.I., 1228Z/25)

Departure 25/9, 1507Z KINGSTON to R.V. with S.W. 1 (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 1509Z/25)

Your 1943/14, 0534/22 and 0726/22. Propse to sail KHEDIVE ISMAIL from Bombay (date) and KAROA or TALAMBA from Red Sea (date) (S.S.T.O., India, Bombay, 1302/25 to D. of S.T.)

B.N. 6. Details (N.C.S.O., Bombay 0935/25)
B.M. 1. Details (N.C.S.O., Colombo 1136/25)

ATHELKING Wreckage — My 1016/9 Master of British (No Trace) reports that on 18/9 in 022° 20' S., 067° 10' E he passed what might have been wreckage from British ATHELKING (C. in C. E.I., 1303Z/25)

Air Report — Sudan. Patrols and escorts. (No Naval incidents) (H.Q., RAF M.E., 1041/25)

A.F. 1. — Consisting of DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, DENBIGHSHIRE, WAIOTIRA, arrived Suez., p.m./23. (S.N.O., Suez Canal 1823/25)

Madagascar — Re employment of neutral ships. (N.O.I.C., Mauritius, 1042/23) Request matter be taken up with U.S. Embassy (C. in C., E.I. 0728Z/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Gunboats — Your 0405Z/24, sailing of gunboats to Hong Kong, Anticipated date. (S.N.O., Shanghai 0705Z/25 to C. in C., China)

Indo China — Following from Duncan dated 25/9. Begins. Lanson Town taken from Southeast and Northwest positions surrounded. Japanese continue advance against order of Tkyo. Situation is as follows:- Landing at Haiphong is imminent it appears Japanese may entirely disregard agreement and occupy all Tongking. Ends. (G.O.C., 1343/25)

Wei-Hai-Wei — Although no statement has been made anywhere by Japanese it seems possible from Japanese activities at Weihaiwei including Japanese occupation of Chinese Naval hospital and extensive repairs to Chinese Naval quarters an Liu Kung Tao that they will not recognise renewal of Weihaiwei agreement. (C. in C., China, 1409Z/25)

America & West Indies

US.Destroyers — Hope to sail 2nd Town Flotilla for U.K. via St. Johns N.F. on 29/9. U.S. Destroyer WELLES will sail with Flotilla from St. Johns N.F. (R.A.3., 1722/25)

VAN KINSBERGEN — Your 0211/14.. Yes. Dutch Admty. are informing VANS KINSBERGEN to that effect (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1845/25)

French Ships — Should French merchant ships believed to be leaving Martinique with cargoes sugar for Casablanca be stopped if opportunity arises. CARADOC and VAN KINSBERGEN will be favourably placed by 27/9. French have superior force on paper but believed to be short of fuel. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2242/25)

Australia

DUNERA — Transport, with 312 troops and 13 repatriated internees sailed Fremantle 0830Z/24 for Bombay. MANOORA providing escort until dark 26/9. (A.C.N.B., 0334Z/25)

U.S. 6. — Admty. 1610Z/2. 11,000 troops will sail in U.S.6. Details of ships and dates. (A.C.N.B., 1200Z/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25. 9. 40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER	Reported expected to sail 26/9 from Manzanillo (B.2) (D.D.I.C., 1846/25) PRINCE ROBERT informed. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1947/25)
SPEZIA	Sailed northward (Alicante, 2015/25)
ARKADIA	Left Galatz for Batum 23/9 with general cargo. (D.S.387)
DELOS	Arrived Galatz 23/9 with 4200 tons manganese ore (D.S.387)
SALZBURG	Left for Batoum arriving 28/9. (Macrae, Galatz. 1108/25)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BALENA	My 1002. Italian trawler BALENA has arrived and another is expected. (Consul, Vigo, 1548/25)

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

25.9.40.

Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

UNION JACK	Faroe Island fishing vessel 81 tons. 7 survivors landed Stornoway 0455/25. No casualties. Sunk by gunfire from enemy submarine 1730/22 in approx. position 100 Miles N.W. by N. Butt of Lewis. (N.O.I.C., Stornoway) 59.50' N. 7.40' W. (D.S.387).
SULAIRIA	British 5802 tons. Torpedoed 53.43' N. 2.10' W. (SULAIRIA 1139/25). Torpedoed at 1239. (C.-in-C., W.A.1253/25). Ex Convoy O.B.217. (D.S.387).
SOVAC Escaped.	British tanker, 6,724 tons, SSSS 53.58'N. 20.10' W. torpedo missed. (Scapa W/T 1313/25). (C.-in-C., W.A.1439/25) Ex. O.B.217. (D.S.387).
EURYMEDON	British, 6,223 tons, torpedoed 53.34' N. 20.23' W. at 1332/25. (Land's End radio 1455/25). Totally disabled but still floating in 53.36' N. 20.25' W. Request tugs. Have embarked 55 survivors. (OTTAWA, 1826/25) Ex.O.B.217. Time given as 1432/25 (D.S.387).
Lifeboat.	Lifeboat with children reported by A/C D/10 in 54.43' N. 14.20' W. at 1350. (C.-in-C., W.A.1533/25).
CITY OF BENARES	ANTHONY to leave HX73 at daylight tomorrow to land 46 survivors from CITY OF BENARES (C-in-C., W.A.2237/25).
BROOMPARK	(torpedoed in Convoy HX.72). Has arrived in the Clyde in tow. (D.S.387).
SCHOLAR (torpedoed 22/9).	Found by MARAUDER and in tow for Clyde. Is still burning amidships (D.S.387). Unmanageable, waterlogged, abandoned same position 54.38' N.16.40'W. at 2000/24. Wreck drifting slowly southerly. Proceeding Oban. (MARAUDER 1600/25).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.9.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

1019 Indication U/B still trailing O.B. 217. OTTAWA to shadow. (C. in C., W.A., 1019/25 Cruising line of advance. (OTTAWA 1826/25)

1125 S/M in your vicinity. Pass to Commodore. (D.T.D., to HAVELOCK, 1125/25/)

Admty. 1340/24. U-boat stated to have been off Fair Isle at 0027/24 is of very doubtful authenticity. Afraid it will never be possible definitely to identify vessels detected by Fair Isle and Sumbrough until A/S craft are available to establish a permanent Fair Isle Channel Patrol, (A.C.O.S. 1234/25)

1252 Suspect S/M 7 miles West of Hesto. NORTHERN CHIEF in contact (DUNCAN, 1252/25) (See S/Ms Attacked)

1427 You are probably being shadowed by U-Boat. pass to Commodore. (D.D.I.C. 1427/25 to SABRE, ERICA, PICOTTEE, GLOXINIA)

1347 D.F. at 1347/25. Unknown enemy unit, probably U/B 55.50' N., 9.30 W., Reliable fix (D.D.I.C., 1452/25)

1052 56° N., 10° W position indefinite (D.S. 386)

0910 53° to 54° N., 21° to 22° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 386)

1927 56° N., 10° W., position indefinte (D.S.387)

Submarines Attacked

1200 Have depth charged oil track which increased to patch in 58.30' W., 11.00' W., proceeding on patrol (LAURENTIC, 1200/25)

1117 By ISIS and DUNCAN, 61.56 N., 7.04 W., 7' W of Hesto, Faroes. Contact attacked no result.

1255 By ISIS, 61.44 N., 6.27 W., 16' S.E. of Hesto. Contact Attacked, no result. (D.S.387

MOST SECRET

26.9.1940
Thursday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation G.L.	This operation was repeated last night (see 24/9). No enemy shipping was sighted.
Patrol in Channel	Destroyers carried out the usual anti-invasion patrol in the Channel.
M.T.B. 6.	M.T.B. 6. developed serious leak off Beachy Head last night, and was abandoned. The Officers and crew were Norwegian.
VETERAN	VETERAN was slightly damaged by a near mine explosion today in Barrow Deep and returned to Sheerness.
A/S Patrol	Another anti-U-Boat patrol is to be established north of the Shetlands. C. in C., H.F. and V.A. (S) have consulted and decided on the anti-U-Boat patrols to be maintained in future.
Dover Shelled	Dover was shelled this afternoon. No Naval damage or casualties were caused.
U.S.A. Destroyers	5 Destroyers of the 1st Town Flotilla arrived at Belfast 26/9.
Enemy Convoy	5 destroyers sailed from Devonport this evening to intercept two 3000 to 4000 ton merchant vessels and 4 smaller M.Vs or escorts reported about 25 miles S.W. of Guernsey at 1615, Steering West. 6 Anson aircraft were later senr to attack. The convoy was not sighted.

British Air Operations

SCHARNHORST and other warships at Kiel were attacked last night by 6 Whitleys. Results were not observed though bursts were seen near SCHARNHORST. Objectives were also attacked at Antwerp, Lubeck and Wanne/münde and the Channel Ports as far west at Brest.

One Blenheim on reconnaissance today attacked docks and shipping at Calais. Results were not observed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

The submarine works at Southampton were severely damaged this afternoon during a heavy attack on Southampton by about 100 aircraft.

Damage was caused at Birkenhead and severe damage at Liverpool late this evening. There would appear to be considerable loss of stocks of food, copra and palm kernals at Liverpool.

SS. PORT DENISON in Convoy OA 220 was attacked off Peterhead at 2000 and sank at 0435/27, 7 miles West Rattray Head Light-house. WELSH PRINCE, in the same convoy, was damaged by a near miss.

Convoy F.N. 91 was unsuccessfully attacked about 12 miles S.E. of Harwich at 1515/26.

Mining

M.T.B. 17. M.T.B. 17 was slightly damaged at 1530 to-day by a near mine explosion, when 9 miles south of ~~S. wick~~ Sunk Lt.V.

VETERAN VETERAN was also slightly damaged by a near mine explosion about noon today in Barrow Deep.

VENOMOUS VENOMOUS was undamaged when 2 mines exploded 7 cables from her this afternoon near Mid Barrow L.V. in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic

H.M.Ambassador reports that the Spanish have refused to allow the French to make air attacks on Gibraltar over Spanish territory.

The output of work in Gibraltar dockyard has already been seriously impaired as a consequence of the air raids of the last two days. Only about half the people who come into Gibraltar from Spain daily to work turned up today.

MOST SECRET

26.9.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

CORNWALL and DELHI parted company with PRIMAUGUET and oiler TARN at 0745Z today in 16° 1' N., 21° 6' W., having received PRIMAUGUET's explicit promise to take both ships to Casablanca. CORNWALL and DELHI proceeded for Freetown. After Fuelling, CORNWALL is to proceed to Duala and prevent any interference by French Vichy forces.

Operation "Menace"

F.O. Force M. estimates the following damage to French ships during the operations at Dakar: S/M's :- 2 sunk, 1 severely damaged by gunfire, 1 received 2 near misses from 100 lb. S.A.P. bombs.
Destroyers:- 2 FANTASQUE class and 1 unknown class burnt out and beached.
Cruisers:- 1 possible hit on GLOIRE class RICHELIEU:- 2 probable hits by 15 inch and 2 near misses from 250 lb S.A.P. bombs.

Mediterranean

3 Blenheims today attacked the landing ground at Sollum with good effect.

100 bombs were deopped at Haifa today, the majority of which fell in the sea. Slight damage was caused on shore.

OSIRIS reports that she sank an Italian destroyer of CURTATONE class 47 miles N.N.E. of Brindisi at 1630/22.

East Indies

It is now reported that, with regard to the bombing of Zeila on night 22/23 Sept. one aircraft dropped bombs on Jibuti in mistake for Zeila

Haifa was attacked today by 10 aircraft, about 100 bombs being dropped without any hits or casualties.

German Merchant Ships

WESER was intercepted and captured by H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT about 4½ miles from Manzanillo, Mexico at 0005/26

MOST SECRET.

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. Humber 2, Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1.(D.C.0225/26)
Humber 2, Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 2.(D.C.1425/26)

Shetlands. 4 inch Guns at Scalloway have now been mounted and tested. (F.O.C.S.1140/26 to Adty).

Plymouth A/A Defences. Strongly urge that the four 3-inch case 1 Guns now to be withdrawn from Plymouth should not be withdrawn without replacement.
(C.-in-C. W.A. 2342/26 to Adty).

Policy.

REVENGE. Your 1938/25. If you consider REVENGE would be safer from dive-bombing up harbour she should proceed there at first opportunity.
(V.C.N.S.1215/26 to C.-in-C., W.A).

Destroyers for Escort Duty in W.A. Command. Estimate 47 needed. Analysis of number now available. Intend release 2 Destroyers from Plymouth now, and propose that 4 now at Portsmouth should also be released. First TOWNS Flotilla, when efficient, will enable more to be released. (C.-in-C.W.A.1959/26 to Adty).

Destroyers at Brest. 502. The presence of destroyers at Brest constitutes a threat to Sierra Leone and Gibraltar convoys and early information of their movements is essential.
(2) Consider that a daily P.R.U. reconnaissance should be carried out and that a submarine should watch the Approaches to Brest.
(C.-in-C. W.A.1329/26 to Adty).

Movements.

Northern Patrol. CILICIA and ARGUS Movements.(F.O.C.N.P.0944/26)

NEWCASTLE. Exercising with 2 Destroyers in Area A and B. Plymouth Approaches from 1200/26.
(C.-in-C. W.A.0949/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

BIRMINGHAM. Your 1442/25. Make every endeavour to arrive Bar Light Vessel by 0645 to dock on tide.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1040/26 to BIRMINGHAM).
Fighter Protection requested.
(C.-in-C. W.A.1655/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET.

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

U.S. Destroyers. — Am proceeding to Greenock. Expect arrive 1830, 4 Destroyers in company (AARON WARD 1205/26 to Adty). Proceeding to Belfast. Expect arrive 1600. (AARON WARD 1461/26 to Adty). Proceed to Belfast as by C.-in-C. W.A.1939/22 (D.O.D.(H) 1600/26 to AARON WARD). Arrived 1st TOWN Flotilla. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1630/26 to C.-in-C. W.A).

Humber Area. — Patrol O. and Movements for Night 26/27. N.O.I.C. Humber 1654/26.

Dover. — Patrols for Night 26/27. (V.A. Dover 1656/26).

Nore. — My 1550/5/7. WIVERN on S.O. Patrol. IMPULSIVE sails Sheerness 1715/26 for Humber. (C.-in-C. Nore 1748/26).

BROKE, VANSITTART, BLYSCAWICA — My 1907. Proceed to 50°N. 5°W. to support BROKE and GARLAND. (C.-in-C. W.A.1927/26).

Rosyth Area. — Movements for Night 26/27. (C.-in-C. Rosyth 1940/26).

Operations.

Jan Mayen. — Your 0857/22 approved. Report action taken by FRIDTHOF NANSEN at Torgilsbu. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1311/26 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

Start Point. — A Patrol to be established tonight from 50° 7'N. 3° 30'W. to 50° 30'N. 3° W. (C.-in-C. W.A.1343/26 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth) Group 20 sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1900/26).

Operation G.L. — (Sweep from Roches Douvres to Ile Vierge). My 1617/25. Destroyers sighted nothing. (C.-in-C. W.A.1031/26 to Adty).

Operation D.H. — Periodical Night Raids by Destroyers and Cruisers against Enemy Shipping between Skudesnes and Lister are intended. Details of Operation. (F.O.3.1434/26 to S/Ms.)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Yarmouth M/L's with FN. and FS. Convoys.

Beginning 27/9, M/L's based on Yarmouth to operate with FN. and FS. Convoys to drive off E-Boats waiting for Convoys. M/L's to R/V with FN. Convoys off Aldeburgh Light Float, transfer to FS. Convoy next day between Outer Dowsing and Flamborough, thence with Convoy to Aldeburgh and so to Yarmouth. (C.in-C., Nore 1544/26 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

M.T.B. for Special Operation

Request you make available on Night 27/28. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1717/26 to C.-in-C. Nore.)

Channel Islands

Proceed with GARLAND to intercept and destroy 2 M/V's 3000 to 4000 tons and 4 smaller M/V's reported at 1619 in 49° 3' N., 3° W. steering Westerly at 12 knots. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1907/26 to BROKE). Both forces return to Harbour by 0730/27. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1931/26 to BROKE, WHITEHALL)

Dover Shelled

4 shells fired at Dover between 1435 and 1554 to-day. One fell half a mile outside Western Entrance, 2 in Harbour, and 1 in Town causing casualties 2 killed and 8 injured. No Naval damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 1931/26 to Adty.)

Anti-Invasion Patrol

VANOC, VISCOUNT, WITCH, BRILLIANT patrol tonight Eastward to Lydd Light Vessel keeping North of 50° 5' N. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1457/26 to Adty.)

Submarines

Anti-U-Boat Patrols

It is intended to establish an anti-U-Boat Patrol with one S/M, in Area enclosed by 60° 50' N., 1°10' W., 60° 50' N., 0° 40' W., 61° 30' N., 0° 20' W., and 61° 30' N., 1° 30' W. the S/M proceeding between Hosyth and Scapa with a Convoy if no other Escort available. (V.A.S.1323/26 to H.Q.C.C.) After consultation with C.-in-C., H.F. anti-U-Boat patrols will be maintained as follows. (V.A.S.1813/26) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 26. 9. 40. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Greenock Area

Submarines (Contd.)

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1505/26)

Orkneys

L.23 exercising in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M./27. (A.C.O.S. 1537/26)

Helder 21 and 22/9

H.44 reports Minesweepers and Trawlers in Sturgeons Swept Channel on 21 and 22/9 (S.O. S/M's Harwich 1715/26 to Adty.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/27. (V.A.S. 1721/26)

Use of S/M Minelayers for Patrol Work only.

This for consideration, observing that little traffic has as yet been reported South of the Gironde. (V.A.S.1101/26 to Adty.) Concur in use of S/M. Minelayers for Patrol Work in immediate future. (C.-in-C.,H.F.1905/26) Concur. I prefer Patrols to Minelaying (C.-in-C. W.A., 1937/26)
735. C.-in-C., W.A's 1329. After providing for patrols referred to in my 1813 no submarines are available for patrol off Brest. I do not consider that a submarine could maintain a close and therefore effective patrol in this locality owing to strong tides and other navigational difficulties.
If however it is considered that a submarine should patrol off Brest the solution would appear to be to make use of two of the submarines now operating from Portsmouth.
(V.A.S. 1839/26 to Adty.)

Portsmouth.

Movements. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth, 1907/26)

British Air Activity

Ostend, Dunkirk, Boulogne, Calais, Flushing, Antwerp.

Attacked by aircraft Night 25/26. (B.C. Summary 447)

SCHARNHORST

Attacked in Kiel Harbour during Night 25/26 (B.C. Summary 447)

Air Rescue Boats

Adty. Letter M.O.15701/40 of 29/8. Situation as to Rescue Boats in Rosyth Command. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1211/26 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 26. 9. 40. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Height of Balloon Barrages

From 30/9 the maximum operational height of all Balloon Barrages is to be considered as 5000 feet. (Air Ministry 1246/26)
503. F.O. i/c Greenock has suggested that fighters should operate from Campbeltown and Islay against enemy aircraft which attack shipping in the North Channel.
I am most anxious that shipping should have maximum protection but as I cannot judge the practicability of these proposals I should be glad of your remarks.
(C.-in-C. W.A. 1331/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

Rosyth Air Searches

For 27/9. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1950/26)

Enemy Air Activity

W.R.N.S. Hostel Damaged.

At Broadhurst Gardens early A.M./26th. Slightly damaged. (S.C.E.Thames 1840/26)

PORT DENISON

British, 8043 tons. In Convoy O.A.220 on fire and abandoned after aircraft attack at 2005/26, six miles East of Peterhead. Rescue Tug ABEILLE IV, Trawler LORD BEACONSFIELD, and Peterhead Life-Boat went from Peterhead to her help at 2020. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 2215/26 to Adty.)

Convoy OA.220

PORT DENISON
WELSH PRINCE

My 2124/26. Convoy in 57° 37' N., 1° 34' W. at 1953/26. Two large aircraft appeared and delivered attack flying about 100 feet. No engines heard before attack. PORT DENISON hit in engine room by an ariel torpedo and immediately caught fire. WELSH PRINCE damaged by bomb falling alongside and is calling at Scapa for repairs. No casualties only one aircraft seen and fired at by ROCHESTER using all guns. No hit observed but barrage appeared to prevent another attack. 50 survivors including Commodore and Master known to have been saved from PORT DENISON. (ROCHESTER 1027/27.) Advance Copy Ops. Trade.

Mining

Gironde

Not considered desirable to lay any more S/M Minefields for time being

between ....

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.(Contd.)

Gironde — between Ushant and Penmarch. For consideration therefore whether to lay one or two more Minefields across possible coastal route south of Gironde. (V.A.S. 1101/26)

VETERAN — Mined in 58° Barrow Deep Light Vessel 6½ cables. Damage appears slight. No electricity. Am returning to Sheerness with VENOMOUS. (VETERAN 1237/26 to C.-in-C., Nore). Expect arrive 1410 with VETERAN. (VENOMOUS 1321/26 to Commodore Sheerness) Mine exploded 20 yards on beam. Destroyers steaming 22 knots, 3 cables apart, VETERAN leading. No casualties. Some damage, but apparently none to hull. Steam and steering unaffected. (C.-in-C., Nore 1527/26 to Adty.)

Nore — Red Mine detonated by LL. Sweepers at 2130/25 in 120 East Shingles Buoy 1.35 miles. (C.-in-C., Nore 1407/26 to Adty.)

PLOVER
VAN DER ZAAN — V.A. Dover 2314/24. To leave Sheerness 2000/26 and arrive South Goodwin Light Vessel at 0100/27, returning to Southend on completion. (C.-in-C., Nore 1512/26 to Adty.) If completed in time, to proceed with FN.92 due to leave Southend 0800/27. (C.-in-C., Nore 1542/26 to PLOVER)

VENOMOUS — 2 Mines exploded 7 cables from beam in 42° Mid Barrow Light Vessel 8 cables. Ship's speed 25 knots. (VENOMOUS 1546/26 to C.-in-C., Nore)

Plymouth — 4 Minesweeping Trawlers between 50° 17' N., 4° 10' W. and 50° 9' N., 4° 20' W. from 0700 till 1200/27. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1649/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

Off Clacton — Mine seen to explode in about 51° 42' N. 1° 35' E. (VIMIERA 1535/26 to C.-in-C., Nore.)

Southwold — F.O.I.C. Yarmouth reports that about 170 Beach Mines exploded this afternoon South of Southwold for no apparent reason. Only slight damage. No casualties. (C.-in-C., Nore 2225/26 to Adty.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Thames Estuary

1. ICARUS passing No. 2 Barrow Buoy at 25 knots. Reports mine exploded 117° Barrow Deep Light Vessel 3.5 miles at 1720.
2. Mine exploded at 1530 midday between M.T.B. 16 and 17 in position 160° Sunk Light Vessel 9 miles. Explosion larger than on 23/9. No flash. Speed 30 knots. Some damage to M.T.B. 17 but boat still efficient. Boats in quarter line half a cable apart. (C.-in-C., Nore, 2337/26 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Havre.

4 M/V's of 5000 tons 3 miles North of Havre at 0940, steering North. (Capt. S.5 1145/26 to 5th S/M.F.)

Havre — At 0940/26 A/C report (P.I.U. 1810/26)

Zeebrugge — At 1735/26 A/C report (P.I.U. 2220/26)

Boulogne — Night 25/26 (B.C. Summary 447)

M/V's off Gris Nez — Night 25/26 (B.C. Summary 447)

EMDEN, KOLN, NURNBERG — At Swinemund on 21/9; also vessel believed to be ADMIRAL SCHEER. (N.A. Stockholm 1315/26 to Adty.)

Transports

BISMARCK

(a) 7 German transports arrived Vasa (Finland) evening of 22nd B. 1.
(b) BISMARCK visited by Swedish Naval Staff at Blem and Voss works Hamburg second week of September is now a carrying out trials in Baltic. B. 3. (N.A., Stockholm 1506/26)

MOST SECRET

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

M.T.B. 6.	At 2030/25 when 6 miles south of Beachy Head, developed a leak and began to sink fast. Officers and crew landed at Newhaven by M.A/S.B.58 at 0930/26; and at 0230/26 was sighted flooded and bridge awash. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1307/26 to Adty.)
SOTRA	L.L.Trawler, damaged in harbour by collision. Repairs will take about 7 days (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2230/26 to Adty.)
OOSTPLEIN	Dutch, 5059 tons. Sailed Methil 26/7 for Buenos Ayres. Seriously overdue (C. in C., S.A., 2034/26)
ANGLO SAXON	British, 5596 tons. Sailed Milford Haven 8/8 and due Bahia Blanca 6/9. Seriously overdue. (C. in C., S.A. 2034/26)
STAD SCHIEDAM	See America & West Indies

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.A. 219	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1550/26)
O.B.M., 221	DERBY COUNTY 19. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 0915/26)
O.A. 218	To alter course, route. (C. in C., W.A., 1240/26)
O.L. 4.	To disperse after dark (C. in C., S.A., 1220/26
S.L. 47	SHIKARI to join (C. in C., W. ., 1220/26) WESTON to meet (C. in C., W.A., 1240/26)
O.L. 5	Destroyer escorts (C. in C., W.A., 1253/26) Route (Adty. 1827/26)
O.B. 220	Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1710/26)
H.X. 73 B	Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1710/26)
S.L. 49	Time of passing boom MORETON BAY To escort (C. in C., S.A., 0611N/26)
H.X. 76	Escorts (S.O.I., Halifax 1819/26)
S.L. 49	Route (D.T.D. 1657/26)
O.B. 222	Route (D.T.D. 1830/26)
O.B. 218	SABRE, PICOTEE, FANDANGO, WOLVES rejoin (C. in C., W.A., 1820/26)
C.W. Convoys	Numbers to be raised to maximum of 16 owing to pressing need for coal in south. This will necessitate raising maximum number of ships in C.E. convoys to 16 (Adty. 1818/26)
Slow F.N. F.S.	Speed to be reduced shortly to include ships of 7 knots to meet requirements of coastal traffic bound from west to east coast port with overside discharge cargoes (D.T.D. 1828/26)
ULSTER MONARCH	Arrived (F.O. Invergordon, 0940/26)
EMPIRE TROOPER	Not ready to sail today. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1147/2

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Air Force

My 1544/24 and 2350/24 to Chief Gibraltar. Jacques tells me French Moroccan Air Force are running out of bombs. Estimates they could not continue bombing Gibraltar at present rate more than about 3 days in all. Presumably now that Dakar incident is over bombing of Gibraltar by French forces will in any case cease. (Consul Tangier, 1240/26)

Force H. Destroyers

Request 2 destroyers may join me in position 035° 50' N., 009° 22' W., at 0900/27 to relieve GRIFFIN and ENCOUNTER who will then return to Gibraltar for fuel.
2 Destroyers may be required to relieve HOTSPUR and GALLANT p.m. /28. (F.O.Force H., 1131/26)

Gibraltar Raids

Intensive air raids of last two days synchronised with operation at Dakar and presumably reprisals. If these raids continue with present intensity Dockyard which has been lucky so far will probably in my opinion and that of A.C.N.A., be put out of action. Output of work already seriously reduced. Please repeat Colonial Office and Admiralty. (Govr. Gib., 1207/26 to W.O.)

Has Gibraltar been bombed today? (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 1849/26)
Your 1849/ Not yet. (F.O.C.N.A. 2000/26)
Only about half the people who come into Gibraltar from Spain daily to work have turned up today. (Govr. Gib. 2105/26)

Losses. Trawler Sunk

Summary of losses in material during air raids 24/9 and 25/9. (details) H.M. Dockyard suffered damage to buildings and communications and steam generating plant was destroyed. One trawler sunk. (Govr. Gib., to W.O., 1645/26)

Casualties

Damage done in yesterday's air raid greater than at first thought. (My 1207/26/9) Four or five airmen baled out into sea none were rescued. Tactics. Some planes flew over Spain and were fired on by Spaniards. Known casualties. Naval, eighteen killed, three wounded. A single reconnaissance plane flew over Gibraltar this morning at 1000 hrs. and 1230 hrs. but up till 1730 hrs no raid has taken place. (Govr. Gib., 1942/26

/LLANGOLEN .....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

LLANGOLLEN — Your 2124/25. Retain in readiness but do not load pending further instructions. (D.T.S.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1656/26)

Air Patrols — Summary of Operations. 26/9. 3 reconnaissance, 2 A/S patrols. Area covered Spartel to 1° 30' W., (200 group, 1745/26)

Destroyer Engagement — Request brief report of engagement between WRESTLER and WISHART and 4 enemy destroyers on 25/9. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1757/26)

Funchal — Your 1704/24. Preparation for reception of British forces not understood. Please explain. (Hd. of M. to N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1936 26)

Force H. Destroyers — Your 1131. WISHART and FIREDRAKE sail at 2000 to join you. Request you will send GRIFFIN and ENCOUNTER to Gibraltar at maximum speed fuel permitting. They will sail again to join you as soon as refuelled and ships they relieve must also return at maximum speed as one of these must leave Gibraltar p.m./28. to meet troop transport. (F.O.C.N.A. 0652/26 to F.O. Force H.)

STORM — Your 0159/17 (Embarkation of British Subjects from Lisbon) Am unable at present to supply full information but Polish Legation informs me that Panama ship STORM left Marseilles night of 23/9 for Gibraltar carrying 400 troops. Will inform soon as possible if these include any British. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1230/26)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace".

Further Operations. Following for De Gaulle. Naturally anxious to help you but should like to know more precisely nature of support you would expect for your operations in French Guinea from Force A or such part of it as may be able to remain at Freetown. (C.N.S. to S.O., Force H, 0115/26).

Following from Prime Minister. Submit your views on De Gaulle's proposals for landing at Konakri and operations in French Guinea and/or such reply as he may make to our 0115/26, asking for more precise information as to nature of support he requires. (C.N.S. to S.O., Force H, 0119/26).

CUMBERLAND Prisoners. Asking they should not be landed at Bathurst (? Troops, Freetown, to Navy Afloat, 0147/26).

ARK ROYAL. Admiralty 2311/25. Until further from Dakar and position and movements of French Force known, consider retention of ARK ROYAL essential. Hope to detach at nightfall to-day 26/9. (F.O., Force H, 0501H/26).

RESOLUTION. Position course and speed at 0700, 12°15'N, 17°45'W., 180°, 5 knots. RESOLUTION's heel causes lubricating difficulties which necessitate stop occasionally. Retention of maximum surface and anti-submarine escort essential for present. Will tow if unavoidable.(S.O., Force H, 0659/26). Am about to take RESOLUTION in tow. List has increased and there is still fire in a boiler room. (S.O., Force H, 0915H/26).

DE GAULLE Plans. Your 0119/26. Following interim reports for Prime Minister from M.A. pending further reply De Gaulle to your 0115/26. My 2294/25. General De Gaulle after further consideration decided potential opposition of Konakri necessitates prior despatch of emissary to sound position, meanwhile request his forces go to Freetown. We agree that descent on Konakri under present conditions not practicable, vide C.in C.2119/25 and because French transports must go to Freetown to water and reorganise troops. We consider final recommendation can only be made after discussion De Gaulle which in view of separation of transports and flagship not possible till Freetown. Suggest C.in C. submits his views after seeing De Gaulle. (S.O., Force H, 1133/26 to Admiralty).

Situation. Report for D.M.I. (G.O.C., W.Africa, 0300/26.

French Resistance. Have received following telegraphed information from my principal Intelligence

officer.../

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace".

French Resistance. (contd.)

officer now at Bathurst. Resistance stiffened by French Navy taking over guns Dakar defences. Five Germans arrived Dakar 23/9 presumably to help organize resistance. Two French twin-engined bomber aircraft flew over Bathurst early 26/9, one reconnoitring town and aerodrome from 500 feet. Two more aircraft heard afternoon 25/9 but not identified. (C.O.C., W.Africa, 1615/26).

ARK ROYAL

Admiralty 2311/25 and my 0501/26. Retention still essential. AUSTRALIA too short of fuel to comply. (S.O., Force H, 1246H/26).

Enemy Losses.

After considering all evidence consider following to be casualties (?inflicted). Submarines 2 sunk one severely damaged by gunfire one received two near misses from two 100-lb. A/S bombs. Destroyers two FANTASQUES and one class unknown burnt out and beached. Cruisers one possible hit on French Cruiser GLOIRE Class. French Battleship RICHELIEU two probable 15-inch hits and two near misses 350 pound S.A.P. bombs reported. (F.O., Force H, 1306/26, amended 1305/26)

Proclamation to cease.

My 1936/24. Approval of H.M.Government to issue proclamation expressing De Gaulle's wish for us to cease bombardment not having been received it is now too late for Force Commanders to do so. Presume appropriate action has now been taken by Government. (F.O., Force H., 1309/26).

French Submarines.

Following from Consul-General Tangier. Jacques reports about 12 submarines left Casablanca 23/9 to take part against British Squadron before Dakar. Believed that these will try to cut off our ships by encirclement movement. Submarines now believed to have adequate supply of torpedoes which were brought to them by 6 French Warships from Toulon. (F.O.C.N.A., 1402/26, Consul Tangier 0940/26).

CUMBERLAND.

Admiralty 1914/26. Estimate 96 hours at Freetown with somelocal assistance could achieve 23 knots on 4 shafts. Ship seaworthy and communications normal. (CUMBERLAND, 1941/26).

Forces "Alloy" and "Shrapnel".

For Major-General Irwin on arrival of Force "Menace" from Dakar. Re reorganisation of force into Army components of Forces "Alloy" and "Shrapnel" under Brigadiers Morford and Campbell respectively. Date for remainder of 102nd R.M.Brigade M.Q. and Signals, Naval Staff, R.A.F. and civilian personnel leaving U.K. (W .O. to O.C.Troops, Sierra Leone, 2350/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace" (contd.)

French Attitude.

Following from H.M.Ambassador. Spanish have refused to allow French to make air attacks on Gibraltar over Spanish territory. Laval has asked Germans to let out whole Toulon Fleet with object of attacking us. Answer unknown. (A.1.) (N.A.Madrid, 2258/26).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CORNWALL
DELHI

My 2015/25. CORN WALL and DELHI return to Freetown a.m./27 (C. in C., S.A., 0355M/26) Route clear (C. in C., S.A., 1501/26)

PRIMAUGUET

Your 2015/N/25. Parted company with PRIMAUGUET at 0745Z/26 in 16.01 N., 21.06 W., having received his explicit promise to take both his ships to Casablanca.
Expected time of arrival Freetown searched Channel CORNWALL and DELHI, 1000N/27.
CORNWALL, 0800Z/26)

Force M.

My 0355 and CORNWALL's 0800/26. CORNWALL and DELHI are at your disposal if required. (C. in C., S.A., to F.O. Force M.,1047/26)

DRAGON

To report time of arrival and what ships in company (C. in C., S.A., 1801/26)

ARGUS

My 2007/25. Amend R.V. to 50° 00 N., 21.32 W (C. in C., W.A., 1139/26)

MORETON BAY

To escort S.L. 49 to U.K. (C. in C., S.A. 0611N/26)

WOLFE

Left 0630/26 as in C. in C., S.A., 1931/25 (S.O.I., Freetown, 0959/26)

French Africa

Situation report No 25, nothing to report. (D.N.I., 1627/26)

CLAN CAMPBELL

My 1311/24 and Admty. 1724/25. Sailed 1000/25, recalled 1724/25, not returned. Appears did not receive recall signal.(C. in C., S.A 1907/26) To be allowed to proceed. (A.C.N.S., (F) 1050/27)

Gambia Situation

Details of garrison. If reprisals against Bathurst undertaken, reinforcements urgently required. Urge one battalion of Marines be disembarked Bathurst and remain until situation clearer. (Origin not stated, to Troopers, London. 1755/26)

/CORNWALL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

CORNWALL to proceed to Duala — After fuelling Freetown to proceed Duala and prevent any interference by French Vichy Forces (1st S.L., 1912/26)

CUMBERLAND — My 1912/26. Is CUMBERLAND in a condition to relieve CORNWALL as guardship at Duala temporarily? (1st S.L. to C. in C., S.A., 1914/26)
Your 1914/26. CORNWALL expected to arrive Freetown a.m./27 CUMBERLAND p.m./27. Little knowledge of CUMBERLAND's condition or repairs executed. Will reply after her arrival. (C. in C., S.A., 1857/26)

RESOLUTION — Advice on entering Freetown, and best times for passing boom. (C. in C., S.A., 1901N/26)

Overdue Ships — OOSTPLEIN, sailed Methil 26/7 for Buenos Aires, date due unknown. ANGLO-SAXON, sailed Milford Haven 8/8 due Bahia Blanca 6/9. (C. in C., S.A., 2034/26)

ARK ROYAL, AUSTRALIA — To sail in company to R.V. with ARGUS and A/S reserve in 50.00 N., 21.32 W., date. Important opportunity of this A/S escort should be taken if practicable. (A.C.N.S.,(F) C. in C., S.A., 2256/26) C. in C., S.A., 2317/25. Y flight to be disembarked before ARK ROYAL leaves for U.K. (D.O.D., (F) to S.O., Force M., 1359/26)

Mediterranean

French Reprisals — Your 1759/25. Reprisals by French are still possible but as the Dakar Operation has been broken off it is not considered likely that general hostilities will break out. (1st S.L., to C. in C., Med., 0211/26, 1927/26)

Malta Supplies — Your 1015/24. No. Ship referred to in Cosup telegram is proceeding round Cape. (D.O.D. (F) to N.O.I.C., Malta, 1451/26)

Submarine Refits — Your 1019/25. Agreed. Consider that larger submarines requiring large refit like OTUS OLYMPUS which take some 3 to 4 months should do so in U.K. Patrols could be carried out en route. This would enable me to keep dock ready for imergencies. (V.A.Malta 1014/26 to C. in C., Med.

/Adty. 2202/23.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Submarine Refits, Contd. Admty. 2202/23. Subject to any remarks by N.O.I.C. Malta I should welcome such an arrangement and consider it should be perfectly practicable with small submarines which could be berthed inconspicuously. (C. in C., Med., 1019/26)

Haifa Raid Air raid on Haifa today 26/9. 10 aeroplanes flying high. About 100 bombs. No casualtues yet reported. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1303/26)

My 1303/26, Air raid on Haifa 26/9 two separate attacks 5 aeroplanes from West 5 aeroplanes from North. H.E. bombs and possibly incendiaries but only 9 bombs fell on land remainder in water near power station Estimated 100 H.E. directed against I.P.C. tank (Faroqu?) and Palestine Electrical Power station. No damage, no casualties to Naval personnel. Only fighters at present available failed to take off owing to engine trouble. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1815/26)

Air Activity Malta Air Intelligence Report.
Up to 1800 26/9 all times local 1530 Glen Martin set out on reconnaissance between Malta and Corfu with task of observing movements of enemy surface forces Ionian sea but returned owing failure of Hydraulic system. Reconnaissance by one Bunderland 230 Squadron on 25/9 from Alex to Malta nothing to report, no enemy air activity over Malta. (H.Q. Malta, 1625/26)

B.N. 5. Fast section arrived 26/9. (list) (S.B.N.O Suez Canal Area, 1756/26)

Danube Suggested mining. (C. in C., Med., 2325/26) See Mediterranean Volume.)

FIONA DAINTY Left Port Saud northwards. (S.B.B.O. Suez Canal, 2335/26)

REGENT Orders for route, amending 1851/24 (Capt S.1. 1405/26)

A.P. 2. (SYDNEY STAR and AMRA) Arrived Suez p.m./25 (S.B.N.O., Suez Cnal, 0938/26)

/Attacks.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean -Contd.

Attacks on Tobruk

Operational Summary No 108. Period ending 1200 hours. 25/9. Attac Egypt, 25/9. Attacks on Tobruk at approx 1400 hours by 27 Blenheims as follows:- direct hit on barracks and large fires started just north of wharves. Direct hits on buildings and M.T. Bombs fell across town from west to jetty A.A. intense and accurate. 113 Squadron attacked by fighters 80 Squadron provided protective patrol over forward area to cover bombers. All aircraft returned. 208 Squadron, tactical reconnaissances. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1049/26)

OSIRIS Italian Destroyer sunk 22/9.

Your 1701/21. Considerable daily convoy activity between Durazzo and Bari. Sank Italian destroyer CØURTATONE Class in position 037° Brindisi 47 at 1630 G.M.T./22/9 Your 1855/24, search completed PANDORA expects to pass through 035° 04', 022° 05' at 1930 G.M.T./27. (OSIRIS, 2200/26)

Operation

My 1849/25. Intend to carry out operation commencing a.m./29. (C. in C., Med., 0919/26)

East Indies

Italian E.Africa

Admty. 1808/23. No reliable evidence that any traffic to Italian East Africa by ocean going vessels. (C. in C., E.I., 0536Z/26)

French Shipping

Recommending all French shipping for Djibuti be held up at Aden until situation becomes clearer. (C. in C., M.E., to W.O., 0855/26)

A.P. 2.

Arrived Suez p.m./25, Convoy A.P. 2. consisting of SYDNEY STAR and AMRA (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0938/26)

Diredawa and Djibuti Bombed

During operations on night of 22/23-9 3 aircraft from Aden were detailed to bomb Diredawa. Weather conditions not good and only 1 aircraft found target. Remaining 2 returned to Somaliland Coast and both dropped bombs on what they felt certain was Zeila where Italian landing ground and A.A. guns known to exist. It subsequently transpired that 1 of the aircraft bombed Djibuti in error. Appears crew mistook the alternative target of Zeila for Djibuti which is somewhat similar. (Air H.Q. Aden 1333/26)

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

A.K. 2. — Departure 1500Z/26. COLOMBO with A.K. 2. for Mombasa. Arrival 1330Z/ KANIMBLA (N.O.I.C., Aden, 1501Z/26)

Enemy Unit — By D.F. bearings of unknown enemy unit, probable surface craft, Simonstown 308/3, Durban 320/3. (D.D.I.C. 2020/26 to Cs. in C. E.I. and S.A.)

Small Craft Kenya — Your 1834/13. Norwegian whaler HVAL at Walrus Bay allocated also hoped to allocate whaler MERCUR SKARBAK at Walrus Bay Approved to take up 4 small motor boats locally (Hd. of M. 2037/26 to C. in C., E.I.)

Djibuti Interceptions See Also China — Your 0736/24. CAP VARELLA due Djibuti from Saigon 5th October, ESPERANCE and LECONTE DE LISLE from Madagascar with food due Djibuti 28/9 and 30/9 respectively should all be intercepted if practicable and held pending further instructions.(A.C.N.S. (F) 2211/26 to C. in C., E.I.,)

Air Activity — Daily Intelligence Summary. No naval incidents. (A.H.Q., Aden 1824/26)

China

Dakar Reaction — Admirals Terraux's present attitude to Dakar affair is that it should not interfere with our cordial relations in Far East. (Liaison Officer Saigon, 0415Z/26)

Evacuation to Indo-China — Evacuation of French troops to Indo-China from Djibuti should not be facilitated. C. in C., E. Indies is being instructed to intercept CAP VARELLA and 2 other ships concerned if practicable. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C., China, 2212/26)

America & West Indies

Sailing of Canadian Troops & 2nd Town Flotilla. — in fast liners, names and dates. Numbers to be sent when escort is available. Date of sailing of 2nd Town Flotilla.(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1121/26)

A/S Patrol.....

MOST SEC.

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies- Contd.

A/S Patrol — My 1610/9. ships for A/S patrol in W. Indies Asking when reply may be expected. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, to Admty. 1252/26)

Chilean LATORRE — Admty. 1113/28/8. Re possible sale of LATORRE. (N.A., Santiago de Chile, 1715/26)

Town Destroyers — Hope you will be able to arrange for all Town class destroyers which you are manning to operate on this side as we urgently need them. (1 S.L. to C.N.S., Ottawa, 2258)

STAD SCHIEDAM — 12 survivors of STAD SCHIEDAM (Dutch) brought into Baltimore by WHITE CREST. Ship blew up 2 days out of Bermuda en route fo Halifax. Left Bermuda 13/9. Full report being made to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa. (Baltimore 2411/26)

H.X. 76. — Halifax arrival 26/9, JERVIS BAY. Departure AUSONIA ocean escort, SAGUENAY local escort, H.X. 76. (S.O.I., Halifax, 1819/26)

Oil Supplies — Your 0942/21. Understood Shell, Trinidad, anticipate no difficulty obtaining neutral vessels to convey oild supplies to Martinique. Question of British Ships visiting West Indian ports should therefore not arise. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., A.W.I. 1347/26)

Operations — My 1657/24 refers to naval action only in view of lack of forces in area. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1655/26)

Your 2242/25, re stopping French ships from Martinique. No action at present. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1401/26)

French Merchant Ships — Your 2242/25 and my 1401/26. If practicable, these ships to be intercepted out of sight of land and shadowed. Their interception to be reported, when instructions will be sent. (A.C.N.S. (T) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1935/26)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26/9/1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

French Sloop — DUMONT D'URVILLE has been given authority that in view attack on Dakar she may open fire by surprise on her adversary if circumstances favourable or if such circumstances do not present themselves to gain time by waiting arrival of LE CALVEZ source A.1. Instructions originated over 48 hours ago. Further message has been sent to DUMONT D'URVILLE at 0900/25 approving attitude re sending two sloops to Indo-China. D.D.I.C. 0209/26)

LE CALVEZ — Admty. 0209/26. Request identity of LE CALVEZ (A.C.N.B., 0830/26.
Your 0830/26. LE CALVEZ believed French merchant vessel, but identity uncertain. (D.D.I.C. to A.C.N.B. 1642/26)

Shipping — P.S.T.O. Bombay 1305/18. Intend sailing STRATHEDEN and BATORY in company from Singapore (date) Proposed route. Intend sailing MAURETANIA (date) independently by same route for Sydney. (C. in C., China, to A.C.N.B., 0601Z/26)

QUEEN MARY — Arrived Sydney 0430Z/25 (A.C.N.B. 0651Z/26)

Dutch Shipping — D. of S.T. 0731/10. Re life saving apparatus (A.C.N.B., 1435Z/26)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER
Captured

WESER sailed 2345/25 from Marzillo (S.O.I., Kingston, 1300/26, Tampico, Mexico, 1744/26) My 1301/15 and 1002/24. German ship WESER captured by PRINCE RUPERT 4½ miles off Manzanillo about 0005/26 and being escorted to Esquimalt. Delay in report due to late receipt of information. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2142/26)

SALZBURG

Arrived Constanza 26/9 (D.S. 389)

EISENACH

At Puntarenas, Costa Rica reported from Panama 24/9 as preparing for sea and expected shortly at Manzanillo, Port Limon, Costa Rica disbelieves report but is maintaining close watch. (D.S. 389)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRANCA FASSIO
Trawler

Arrived from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1237/26) My 1548/25. Third Italian tanker arrived Vigo today. They are said to have come from Horta. (Consul, Vigo, 1203/26) Name SORDELLO others PESCESPADA and BALENA (D.S. 388)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

THEOPHILE
GAUTIER

Sunderland 228 Sqdn. made search off Palestine Coast Vessel not located. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1043"26)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

CORRIENTES
Torpedoed

British 6863 tons, torpedoed 0140/26, 53.20 N 27.18 W., 266° Achille Head 608° Dispersed from Convoy O.B. 217. (Cleethorpes W/T 0140/26

EURYMEDON
(Torpedoed 25/9)

SALVONIA sent to take her in tow 53° 35' N., 20° 25' W., arriving about 2000/27. OTTAWA to rejoin EURYMEDON and stand by her until relieved by PRIMROSE before dark. (C. in C., W.A., 0029/26) Position now 53° 49' N., 19° 37' W. Have embarked Captain and 55 survivors from SULAIRIA on relief intend proceeding Clyde (OTTAWA 1250/26)

SULAIRIA
(Sunk 25/9)

At 2100
EURYMEDON in position 053° 50' 019° 15' W drifting (? 080° or ? 357°) 1.2 knots. Have all survivors on board. Intend remaining until PRIMROSE arrived or 1000/27 thence proceeding to Clyde. (OTTAWA 2118/26)

MARINA
escaped

Chased by submarine in 54° 37' N.,12° 17' W (Valentia Radio 0710/26, Lands End Radio 0756/26) No all clear (Valentia Radio 0715/26 Lands End Radio 0810/26) Aircraft report of incident (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 1955/26)

ASHANTIAN

Torpedoed in 55° 10' N., 11° 0' W., wholly disabled/requires tug (Valentia Radio, 0840/26) Proceed to assistance if near ASHANTIAN torpedoed in 54° 47' N., 11° 37' W at 1006/26. Possible alternative position 55° 10' N., 11° 0' W., at 1006/26. (C. in C., W.A., 1201/26 to VELOX) Your 1201/26. 200 miles from position (VELOX 1321/26 to C. in C., W.A.,)

RHESUS

Submarine chasing 55° 38' N., 12° 31' W., (Port Patrick 1006/16) All clear at 1037 (Port Patrick 1047/26) Corrected position 55° 38' N., 13° 8' W., (C.G. Port Patrick 1058/26) Aircraft received report too far off to take action. (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 1955/26)

CITY OF BENARES
(Sunk 17/9)

Expect to arrive 1845/26. 28 cot cases. (ANTHONY 1034/26)

/STRATFORD.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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/STRATFORD.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

STRATFORD

British tanker STRATFORD torpedoed in Convoy and bunkers set on fire 0045/26 in 054° 50' N., 010° 40' W., Casualties one foreman one engineer remainder of crew on board GLOXINIA and trawler WOLVES. Ship still well afloat buring aft. Am remaining vicinity till daylight to explore possibility of salvage. Survivor stated another unknown ship was torpedoed in the convoy at approximately 0001/26 Convoy O.B. 218. (GLOXINIA 0330/26)

Proceed with despatch to assistance of S/S STRATFORD and TUG THAMES in 54° 50' N 10° 40' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0950/26 to tug MASTODONTE)
MASTODONTE sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1105/26)

HIGHLANDER, HURRICANE, HARVESTER, MOOLTAN
You are probably being shadowed by U/B inform Commodore. (D.D.I.C., 1243/26)

SCHOLAR (Torpedoed in H.X. 72. 20/9-22/9)

SCHOLAR waterlogged and abandoned position 054° 36' N., 016° 40' W., at 2000/14. Drifting but if cannot be salvaged she should be sunk. (C. in C., W.A., 2327/26)

Submarine Reported

0045 — Suspect submarine in 57.10 N., 11.10' W., at 0045. (U.S.D. AARON WARD, 1205/26)

0711 — Cruising 54° 37' N., 12° 17' W., Reported by MATINA (Port Patrick Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0917/26) Submarine on surface. Reported by MATINA 0800 (Valentia Radio 0758/26, Lands End Radio 0755/26) Informing ships of W.A. Command (C. in C., W.A., 0809/26)

1500 — Aircraft report possibly submerged U-Boat 59° 47' N., 1° 29' W., course 273° at about 1500/26 (F.O.C.O.S. 1689/26)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- No further news.
German- 1 S.S.W. of Valentia
1 about 300 miles west of Valentia at 1150/26
1 in 53° 20' N., and about 23° W., at 0140/26
1 possibly N.W. Rockall
2 or 3 in N.W. Approached between 54° 37' N., and 55° 38' N., and between 11° W., and 12° 30' W., (D.D.I.C., 1420/26)

/Submarines.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.9.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

0938 — PICOTEE attacked contact in 54° 55' N., 11° 0° W., (PICOTEE 1020/26) 15 group 1540/26)

1255 — Aircraft dropped d.c. at 61° 44' N., 6° 27' W., no results seen. (Donibristle 1958/26)

U-Boat Attacked by CACHALOT 24/9. — CACHALOT reports U-Boat was attacked at dusk in 46° 58' N., 005° 56' W. steering East on 24/9. Range 7500 yards, only conning tower seen. Heard 2 explosions 3 minutes after firing and no other explosions later. Position was closed and revealed smell and taste of Diesel fuel. Bucket of sea water showed oil film on surface. Asdic impulses heard before sighting. (V.A.S. 1224/26)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Dover Shelled

Dover was shelled today between 1326 and 1413. There were no naval or civilian casualties.

U.S.A. Destroyers

The 1st. Town Flotilla, less BUCHANAN left Belfast for Plymouth at 1900 today. BUCHANAN was damaged when coming alongside at Belfast and is remaining there for repairs.

F.N & F.S. Convoys

Commencing today, M/C's based on Yarmouth are to operate with F.N. and F.S. convoys to drive off E-Boats waiting for convoys.

British Air Operations

Naval objectives attacked by R.A.F. last night were the Channel ports, the main weight of the attack being on Le Havre where much damage appeared to have been caused. 8 Hampdens attacked SCHARNHORST at Kiel and it is believed the ship was hit. The Dortmund@Ems Canal was attacked.

The enemy again lost heavily today, up to 0600/28, 131 machines by fighters plus 2 by A.A. plus 35 probable and 52 damaged. Our casualties were 27 (18 pilots lost)

Enemy Air Operations

Damage was caused in Liverpool docks last night. Two ships were also damaged by fire though not seriously.

About 850 enemy aircraft operated over the U.K. today.

Three bombs fell in Dover today, causing one naval casualty. Balloons were attacked unsuccessfully.

STOUR was bombed this afternoon 10 miles E.N.E. of Orfordness.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation M.U. PLOVER and VAN DERZAAN proceeded last night to lay mines off the South Foreland to reinforce Minefield M.S. in such a way that minesweeping operations by the enemy will be covered by our shore defences. The minelayers went ashore on the North Goodwins and the operation was abandoned.

One Beaufort of 5 detailed dropped mines in the Jade.

HALCYON struck a mine this evening off Middlesborough and proceeded to that port.

A magnetic mine is thought to have exploded off Shoreham, 100 yards off shore, at 2130.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Edinburgh Channel Thames Estuary, Harwich to North Foreland, Goodwins and Dungeness to Beachy Head.

Operations against Vichy French

Force H is returning to Freetown, BARHAM towing RESOLUTION. Force A, M.T.Ships and De Gaulle Force arrived today.

RENOWN and 4 destroyers are at sea, West of Gibraltar.

Two aircraft, believed to be French, flew over Freetown today and were fired on. No bombs were dropped. A Fleet Reconnaissance aircraft was attacked by two machines, 200 miles N.W. of Konakri.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

The French Admiralty have requested the French N.A. at Madrid to inform the British Admiralty that they can make the Mediterranean untenable for the British unless they formally engage to suspend all attacks, renounce all propaganda for Civil War and not to impede sea navigation of food stuffs.

Four submarines were reported today by a Sunderland 20 miles south of Malta. A Swordfish also VOYAGER and 2 A/S trawlers were despatched to attack, but did not succeed in finding the submarines.
V.A. Malta considers it most improbable that U-Boats would be operating on the surface close together in daylight 20 miles from Malta.

Luqa Aerodrome was damaged today by enemy bombers. Two enemy aircraft were shot down.

Enquiries have been made through Bucharest regarding survivors of the Italian Submarine PROVANA which is stated to have been sunk by a French warship in the Mediterranean 2/7, last heard of 30/6.

East Indies

French SS ESPERANCE was intercepted today 47 miles south of Aden and ordered in under armed guard.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27. 9. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

There must be men well acquainted with harbour work in enemy assembly ports from Rotterdam to Havre who could estimate time necessary to move out the large and small vessels known to be assembled at any time in inner and outer harbours and form them up outside boom or breakwater.
This information would be valuable to Senior Officers and might be included in daily summaries of Intelligence.
(C.-in-C., Portsmouth 2003/27 to Adty.)
My 1500/27. In order that a cruiser may be available at the Clyde after SHEFFIELD sails previous instructions for DUNEDIN are cancelled and she is to remain at the Clyde.
(2) Deperming and re-arming as previously arranged are to be carried out but DUNEDIN is to be at 4 hours notice for steam after SHEFFIELD sails.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2214/27)
Admiralty require DUNEDIN to be at 12 hours notice for steam. It may be necessary to shorten this notice.
(F.O.I.C.,Glasgow 2203/27 to DUNEDIN)

DELUGE Signals

Humber 1, Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1. (D.C.0200/27)
Humber 3, Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 1. (D.C.1402/27)

Policy

French Warships

What action should be taken if French Warships are accompanied by enemy vessels (C.O.C.H. Forces, 1837/27 to W.O.)

Movements

DIDO

Liverpool Bay for Trials 0900 till 1800/27. (F.O.I.C.,Liverpool to H.Q.F.C.)

Nore

Dispositions for Night 27/28. (C.-in-C. Nore 0800/27) Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/28 (C.-in-C.,Nore 1200/27)

Northern Patrol

Trawler Positions (S.O.N.T. 0932/27 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Dover

Patrols for Night 27/28 (V.A. Dover 1154/27)

MOST SECRET

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Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

FORFAR	Arrives 57° 35' N., 9° 20' W., at 1800/28. Arrives Liverpool Bar 1900/29. (FORFAR 1219/27 to A.C.W.A.)
INTREPID	Leaves Humber 1240/27. (F.O. Humber 1250/27 to Adty.)
Orkneys	Movements for Night 27/28. (A.C.O.S. 1531/27) Trawler Lines occupied Night 27/28. (A.C.O.S. 1536/27)
Humber Area	Movements for Night 27/28. (F.O. Humber 1535/27)
IMPULSIVE	My 1200. Will leave Humber for Sheerness at 2000/27. (C.-in-C.,Nore 1540/27)
M/S Trawlers	Three in 50° 18' N., 4° 11' W., to 50° 9' N., 3° 54' W., to 50° 9' N., 3° 38' W., and return from 0700/28 to 1630/28; and three in 50° 17' N., 4° 10' W., to 50° 9' N., 4° 20' W. and return from 0700/28 to 1200/28. (C.-in-C., W.A. 1659/27 to H.Q.F.C.)
A/A Ships to Escort Convoys	It is intended to allocate the A/A ships at present available to act as escorts for convoys on the North and East of Scotland and in the North Channel and Irish Sea. 2. East Coast and Channel Convoys will continue to be escorted by A/A destroyers, A/A sloops, and HUNT class destroyers. 3. When ALYNBANK is ready for service C.-in-C., H.F. sail CAIRO (or CURACOA) for Clyde to be placed under the orders of C.-in-C.,W.A. 4. ALYNBANK and CURACOA (or CAIRO) will remain under the orders of C.-in-C.,H.F. 5. SPRINGBANK when ready for service approximately mid November will be placed under the orders of C.-in-C.,H.F. (A.C.N.S. H 1719/27 to C's-in-C.)
TOWN Flotilla (4 Destroyers)	At 0700 in 51° 25' N., 5° 10' W. proceeding to Plymouth at 20 knots. Expected off Hartland Point at 0830/28 Request Fighter protection. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1927/27 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 27. 9. 40. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

LETITIA — Expects to be in 57° 38' N., 9° 21' W., at 1400/28. (LETITIA 2000/27 to C.-in-C., W.A.

KENYA to escort Convoy to Freetown or Capetown, and thence work up. — Your 1548/27/9/40 to KENYA I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing the Captain of the KENYA but of the NIGERIA's Company about 40% have never been to sea before and it is probable KENYA is in much the same state. I would suggest that a cruiser of the 18th C.S. be detailed for this operation. (C.-in-C., H.F.2215/27 to Adty.)

WHITEHALL VANSITTART — At 0600/28 off Trevose Head on passage to Skerryvore 0600/29 and Kyle of Lochalsh. Request Fighter protection for day 28th and dawn to 1430/29. (C.-in-C.,W.A. 2249/27 to H.Q.F.C.

ARGUS — Your 0950/27. Adjust your course and speed to R/V with Destroyer Escort as by my 2007/25 amended by my 1139/26. (C.-in-C., W.A., 2337/27 to ARGUS)

Operations

Jan Mayern — Your 1311/26. W/T station Torgilsbu closed. Operators and instruments removed Written report forwarded 23/9 (F.O. i/c Reykjavik 1145/27)

Patrol — Tonight MACHAY, WOLVERINE, BEAGLE, SARDONYX patrol eastward to limit of Portsmouth Command and southward to 50 5' N. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1543/27)

Dover shelled — About 20 shells fired at Dover between 1326 and 1413/27. One hit detached breakwater, 9 fell in harbour, remainder on land No Naval or civilian casualties (V.A. Dover 1633/27)

E-Boats

2 E-Boats E.N.E. Beachy Head 15 (Portsmouth W/T 0200/27) 2 E-Boats 103° Beachy Head 15 (Portsmouth W/T 0204/27)

Submarines

A. I am being frequently pressed to provide a S/M Patrol off Brest.

B....

MOST SECRET

27. 9. 40.
Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

B. C.-in-C., W.A., is in urgent need of a S/M for A/S practices and it is important that L.27 should revert to her training duties at Portsmouth.
C. In order to meet these requirements propose
1. Channel patrols be reduced to two which could be maintained by SWORDFISH URSULA UTMOST and UPRIGHT.
2. H.43 returns to Devonport and L.27 reverts to training duties.
3. TALISMAN returns to second Flotilla.
D. I shall then be able with second Flotilla to provide two patrols in Bay of Biscay and if Adty. do not require mine-laying operations in that area the two minelayers can be employed on an additional patrol in Bay of Biscay or off Brest.
(V.A.(S) 1623/27. to C.-in-C., H.F.)

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — Intelligence Summary No. 448. Summary of Operation 26/9 (H.Q.B.C. 0020/27)

Gardening — Prevented by weather. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0900/27)

Enemy Air Activity

Dover — 3 bombs fell in Dover 0839 today. One Naval Officer dangerously wounded. No civilian casualties (V.A. Dover, 1124/27)

PORT DENISON Sunk — S.S. PORT DENISON sunk by attack of single aircraft off Buchan Ness 2000/26. About 40 survivors landed Lyness from H.M.T. PENTLAND FIRTH. 4 injured now in AMARAPOORA. 4 dead landed Lyness. Master and 6 further survivors have proceeded in BLUEBELL. Officers and crew of S.S. PORT DENISON numbered 81 with the addition of Commodore and 4 Naval signalmen.(A.C.O.S. 1545/27)
Report of Master of S/S PORT DENISON attacked by enemy aircraft off Peterhead 2000/26/9 and sunk 260 Rattray Head Lighthouse 7 miles 0435/27/9. Master Chief Engineer and 8 survivors landed by Peterhead Lifeboat at Peterhead.
Twin engine monoplane flying 100 feet above sea dropped torpedo or heavy bomb which struck vessel under water between engine room and number 4 hold. An incendiary bomb at same time exploding in Engineer's quarters, starboard side, upper deck amidships,...

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

PORT DENISON
Sunk (Contd.)

Aircraft also machine gunned vessel flew off to the N.E. Starboard side of vessel near explosion badly buckled inwards. Engine Room and number 4 Hold flooded immediately. Two known are dead. Aircraft carried no lights. (.N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1731/27)

Liverpool
DIPLOMAT
PETERTON
Damaged

Results of last night's raids five berths in South Docks Liverpool between Kings and Brunswick Docks temporarily out of action. Many warehouses in this area damaged or burnt out, also Dock Board refitting and repair shops. Two ships damaged by fire but not seriously. Locks of small dry docks canning dock damaged and leaking. No serious damage Birkenhead and none North Docks. Except to warehouses damage very slight. (F.O. i/c Liverpool 1558/27)

Eastham Lock

F.O. i/c Liverpool reports at 1739/26 one Enemy Aircraft dive-bombed on Eastham Lock. Only one bomb dropped which missed the target. Eastham Lock is entrance from Mersey to Manchester ship canal. There are no A.A. Defences. Owing to close proximity to Hooton Park Aerodrome balloons are not permitted. It is considered that for the safeguard of Lock of such importance some close A.A. Defence is ugently needed. 1601/27. Ends.
2. Admiralty concur in desirability for some defence of these important gates against attack by low flying aircraft.
(D. of L.D. 1933/27 to Air Min.)

Mining

Operation M U

Two minelayers aground on North Goodwins, 150° 7 miles from North Foreland. Hope to refloat at dawn and proceed to Sheerness. Request Fighter escort dawn to spprox. 1000 hours. Code word ADAPT. If ships refloat revert to Fighter protection.
(H.Q.F.C. 0320 to U Group)
Jettison your mines after rendering them safe if you consider this necessary if ships are not off by 0530. Second tug not ordered out as she would not reach you until after daylight.
(C.-in-C., Nore 0445/27 to PLOVER)
My 2314/24 operation M U. If minelayers are fit for service, propose mines be laid tonight 27th/28th Sept. and to issue amended orders accordingly.
(V.A. Dover 1021/27 to Adty.)
138. Arrangements for tonight Friday as in my 1048/26./(C.-in-C.,Nore's 1232/26 to PLOVER, VAN DER ZAAN)
/ C.-in-C.,Nore's 1512/26 refers.

War Diary.

MOST SECRET

27. 9. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (Contd.)

Operation M U (Contd.)

Your 1021/27. Concur (Adty. 1245/27 to V.A. Dover.)
My 2314/24 and C.-in-C.,Nore's 1232/27 intend to carry out operation M U during tonight 27/28.
C.-in-C.,Nore has arranged cover by three destroyers on Dover Patrol C.D. 5 no M.T.B.'s are available.
Minelayers are to return to Southend on completion of the lay.
(P.A. Dover, 1536/27 to PLOVER)

SN.42

SCOTT to leave Ardrossan for SN.42 early 30/9 (R.A.M.L. 1116/27, 1145/27, 1148/27)
Propose to carry out SN.42 leaving Port ZA 0640/30. Position of laying, starting 1945/30 and finishing 2335/30 (R.A.M.L. 1159/27 to C.-in-C.,W.A.) Boiler cleaning cannot be completed before p.m. tide 30/9 (SCOTT 1731/27)
Propose to carry out S N forty two 1945/30 as follows:
Deep Minefield from N.W. to S.E.
SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, PORT NAPIER, SCOTT, WITHERINGTON, VISCOUNT and two other destroyers. Position. Cours Details of times. (R.A.M.L. 1931/27)

Hartlepool Tees

Closed. Ships in FW.91 for these ports should be sent into Sunderland (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1925/27, N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1902/27)

Shoreham

Coast Guard Shoreham report a loud explosion 2 miles to Westward and 100 yar from shore at 2130/27. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 2158/27 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth)

Acoustic Mines

Present evidence seems to show that Destroyers at 25 knots may actuate acoust mines up to four cables from their track and M.T.B's at short distance though none yet actuated by convoys. No reason howev at present to suppose that Cruisers and Destroyers can gain immunity from mine ov which they pass by proceeding at slow speeds. Pending further experience Cruisers Destroyers and M.T.B's are recommended to proceed at high speed in single line ahead in open order smaller ships proceeding directly ahead of Cruise whenever possible.
(C.-in-C.,Nore, 2224/27 to C.S. 18)

MOST SECRET

27. 9. 40.
Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

HALCYON — Following received from Middlesbrough. HALCYON struck mine approx position 010° 2½ to 3 miles from South Gare PW38. No immediate danger assistance being sent. 1915/27 Ends.
C.-in-C.,Rosyth divert ships from F N 91 due for Hartlepool Middlesbrough into Sunderland. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1925/27)

Enemy Intelligence

Lorient — Photographic R/C 27/9 showed 10 U-Boats in Lorient. (F.O. S/M's 0031/28)

Kiel Canal — Director of Swedish Lloyd states company now has 11 vessels engaged in regular trade with German ports. Captains state no delay in passage through Kiel Canal and no visible damage to Canal or lock gates. B Two. (N.A. Stockholm 1818/27 to D.N.I.)

Boulogne, Treport, Dieppe, Havre, Rouen, Lorient. — Summary of Photographic R/C on 27/9. (D.D.I.C. 2035/27)

Flushing — P.R.U. sortie at 1810/26. (P.I.U.0001/27)

Lorient, Cherbourg Dinard — P.R.U. sortie at 1215/27. (P.I.U.1912/27)

North Cape — Finnish s.s. HOGLAND reports she was boarded by German Armed Trawler off Vardo on 24/9, but allowed to proceed. Also s.s. MANMARLAND circled by Enemy aircraft about 60 miles West of Vardo, but not stopped. (Petsamo 2040/27 to D.N.I)

Cherbourg — TALISMAN's Patrol Report 16 to 26/9. (C.-in-C.,Portsmouth 2253/27 to Adty.)

Miscellaneous

Tyne. New Swept Channel — Re (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1821/27 to Adty.)

Casualties and Defects

MARAUDER — Steam pipe to starboard air-pump carried away. Returning to Oban slowly for repairs. (MARAUDER 0630/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) Your 0630/27. Proceed to Ardrossan for repairs and fuel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0947/27 to MARAUDER)

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 27. 9. 40. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects (Cont.)

STAD SCHIEDAM	Dutch, 5918 tons. Blew up 2 days out of Bermuda on way to Halifax. Left Bermuda 13/9. 12 survivors brought to Baltimore by WHITE CREST. (Baltimore 2411/26 to Adty.)
ARABISTAN THEMISTOCLES CALABRIA.	My 1145/23 and 1035/25. Both arrived Cape Town. (S.O. (1) Cape Town 0925 B/27) Ex Italian. Due Durban 23/9 from Colombo not arrived. (S.O. (1) Cape Town 0925 B/27)
BASTIAN	Sailed Lisbon (Lisbon) 29/8 for Newfoundland has not arrived (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1433/27)

Shipping

Convoys CW. 12	Details. Request fighter protection. (C.-in-C., Nore 1310/27)
OA.219	Not possible to join before dark. (SCIMITAR. 1222/27) Approved (C.-in-C., W.A. 1557/27)
5 M.V's	Request fighter protection (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1313/27)
OL. 5	Position. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1055/27, 0855/29)
OB.218	PICOTEE and FANDANGO to shadow. (C.-in-W., W.A., 1550/29)
HX.73	To arrive Bar Light 0630/28. (WALKER 0800/27)
5 Tankers	Eddystone to Falmouth (C.-in-C.,W.A., 1939/27)
OB.220	Sailed 0800/27. Escort WELLINGTON, GLADIOLUS (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0809/27)
SC.6.	SHEATMOUNT sailed with gelignite. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1640/27)
"	Draft sailing telegrams (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1804/27)
HX. 74	Meet (C.-in-C.,W.A. (540/27) Amend meet. (C.-in-C.,W.A.,1330/28)
HX. 77	Names. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1121/27 SHX.77 Details (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1650/27)
HX. 70	Outline of R.V. HIRD sunk by U/B and KALLIOPSIS by aircraft, both stragglers. (D.T.D. 1437/29)

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 27. 9. 40. Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping (Contd.)
AN. 4	Sailing telegram (S.B.N.O., Suez 0923/27)
HX. 78	Route. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1212/27, N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1010/27)
SC. 6	Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1806/27)
HX. 76	Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1102/27 1104/27) SHX. 76. Details (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 0948/27)
Troop Convoy	
W.S. 3	Date of sailing and composition (D.O.D.(H) 1500/27)
EMPIRE TROOPER	To proceed to Liverpool. Escort. (C.-in-C.,H.F. 1618/27, 2214/27) sailed for Methil (N.O.I.C. Tyne 1151/27
Coastal Shipping	Regulations for during winter months (Adty. 1345/27)
East Coast Convoys	Adty. 1828/26. Time table if 7-knot ships included (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 1747/27)
Escort Proposals	In order to improve escort situation in N.W. Approaches, following measures proposed : (2) (a) That O.A. convoys be stopped immediately. (b) That O.B. and R.N. convoys should be run every other day with trawler escorts backed up by sloops etc. Further proposals. (D.T.D. 1838/27 amended 2232/27)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Force H. When convenient to break W/T silence request following information to enable tracks of ships to be roughly plotted.
(A) Movements of RENOWN between leaving harbour on 11/9 until patrol referred to in your 1109/12 was instituted.
(B) Movements of destroyers which were taking part in the operation for period as in (A)
1st S.L. 0034/27 to F.O. Force H.)

Alloy" and "Shrapnal" Re accomodation in Sierra Leone and Gold Coast (W.O. to G.O.C., W.Africa, 0035/27) (Freetown W/T to Troopers, London, 0919/27) (G.O.C., W. Africa, 1435/27)

French Navy Threat My 2258/26. Informant is in best position to know. Units available given as 3 cruisers 10000 tons. 3-6 in. cruisers, 4 destroyers, 12 submarines, besides STRASBOURG if possible (N.A. Madrid 1131/27, F.O.C.N.A., 2242/27)

History of Operation Requesting history and time table of preparation for "Menace" particularly determining factors in dates of sailing, and full reasons for necessity of expedition proceeding to Freetown. (1st S.L. to S.O., Force H., 1140/27)

De Gaulle Message to General Ismay for Press on continuing contest for liberty. (C. in C., S.A., 1529N/27)

French Aircraft ARK ROYAL reports reconnaissance Swordfish attacked by 2 Glen Martins at 1445/N in 11.30 N., 16.40 W., Swordfish replied and damaged one. (S.O., Force H., 1705N/27)

Freetown Arrivals Asking when following arrive Freetown:
(a) De Gaulle Force, (b) M.T. ships,
(c) Force A, (d) RESOLUTION (1st S.L. to S.O. Force H., 1712/27)
Your 1712 (a) Has Arrived, (b) due 28/9,
(c) has arrived less H.Q. in BARHAM
(d) 0600/29 with BARHAM. (F.O. Force H., 1810N/27)
Your 1712. Following arrived Freetown 27/9
(a) Force A. 0537, (b) M.T. ships 1700.
(c) De Gaulle Force, 0900. (C. in C., S.A. 1945/27)

/Force H.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

French Policy, Contd.

(4) The attack on Dakar was answered by bombardment of Gibraltar. We will continue to answer in the same way every new attack and we can make Mediterranean untenable for Englis, unless H.M. Govt. will formally engage:-
(a) to suspend all attacks
(b) To renounce all propaganda for Civil War
(c) Not to impede sea navigation (corrupt group) applicable to feeding"

I agreed to send but gave him my private opinion of it very frankly. He replied that we were playing into hands of Laval, who is now completely German.
H.M. Ambassador has seen this telegram.
French N.A. wishes to maintain contact with me. (N.A. Madrid 2031/27, 2032/27)

ARK ROYAL
AUSTRALIA

Intend to send ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA to Freetown if morning reconnaissance tomorrow satisfactory. Request DRAGON or DELHI may be sent to replace AUSTRALIA and as much air reconnaissance as possible. Route. (S.O. Force M., 1926/27)

CORNWALL
Duala

Admty 1912/26. CORNWALL must anchor at Manoka Bay. This anchorage is exposed to possible attack by submarines on the surface at night though approach is difficult. Intend CORNWALL shall proceed Duala, anchor Manoka Bay, report situation and consider local means of defence and look out. Then proceed and patrol off coast employing air reconnaissance visiting Manoka Bay as considered desirable. If situation required a ship up harbour a "D" class cruiser will be sent. (C. in C., S.A., 1913/27)

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

27.9.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar Air Raids. Evacuation.

During heavy air raids of last two days necessity for evacuating at least 1,600 women and children conclusively proved. Attacks could be indefinitely sustained either from North Africa or from Spanish aerodromes. In fact, Gibraltar above ground would soon cease to exist and Gibraltar underground is insufficient to accommodate the necessary garrison and existing civil population.
This is the only place in the empire liable to heavy and sustained air attack which has no fighter defence and is dependent entirely on limited A.A. defence. I feel that Gibraltar should have priority as regards evacuation. (Govr. Gib.0220/27 to W.O.)

Funchal, Accommodation.

Your 1926/26. 1704/24. In view of general situation in peninsula and some time possible occupation of this island, the information is being accumulated purely as a precautionary measure to prevent any confusion or delay should such occasion arise. (Funchal. 1127/27 to Admty).

French Report.

Following received from Lisbon (begins) Master of steamship CORTES just arrived from Vigo reports sighting passenger ship accompanied by 4 funnelled cruiser steering Northern course. Assume her to be French by build. 10 miles from coast. CORTES left Vigo 1400/25/9, immediate 1945/26 (Ends). (S.O.I. Gib., 1236/27).

Cables.

Cable and Wireless report that the Gibraltar Cadiz cable is interrupted and that telegrams to or from the Canary Islands must either go by direct wireless or if marked by the Gibraltar Madrid Cadiz land line on which information is liable to be tapped. (C.T.C. No.T.O.O./27).

French Merchant Ships.

Admty. 2022/11/7, 1439/23/9 and 1515/26/9. Is it intended these ships should be diverted to Gibraltar if unescorted and if I have force available to intercept them? (FO.C.N.A. to Admty. 1304/27).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

27.9.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

NEURALIA, troop evacuation.

Your 0159/17. British Ambassador has previously issued general instructions as to troops, etc., being sent to U.K. Have consulted him this morning on his return from U.K. on consignment being sent in NEURALIA. Ambassador concurs in all steps being taken. Control on French Spanish Frontier considerably (? group missed). So far Polish Legation inform me seventy men are either in Spain or Portugal.
(N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1429/27 to Admty).

Gibraltar
Bombay.

Your 1745/27 (see Operation Menace). No bombing so far today. (F.O.C.N.A. to S.O., Force H. 2240/27).

Radio Lyons states that French Admty. announced that as English Squadron has ceased to attack Dakar, reprisals on Gibraltar have been suspended. (D.D.I.C. to F.O.C.N.A. and F.O. H. 2215/27).

Destroyer Action 25/9.

Admty. 1757/26. When patrolling East of Ceuta about 0500/25, WRESTLER acting on enemy report of CHARLES MCIVER sighted 4 destroyers proceeding eastward at range of 6,000 yards. They were not challenged and appeared to be French. One or more opened fire on WRESTLER who returned fire. No hits observed. WRESTLER not hit. Destroyers passed to eastward at high speed. WISHART was not engaged. (F.O.C.N.A. 1640/27).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Intelligence

B. 2. report. (a) Italian representative Angora 23/9 requested Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to allow supplies to reach Dodecanese in Turkish ships.
On refusal then requested that Italian ships should be permitted. Min. for For. Aff. agreed this because they believed H.M. ships could intercept this traffic.
(b) That at Fiume 22/9 two submarines and Mussolini's yacht were badly damaged as a result of sabotage.
(c) That 21/9 or 22/9 about 30,000 German troops were drowned in an attempt to invade England. Reason given was R.A.F. bombing of barges and transports. (N.A. Belgrade, 1116/26)

Blockade

Minister Athens telegram 898/26. The Italians cannot hold Greece responsible because we refuse to give clearances over Attiki and to allow 2000 tons wheat to call at an invested island which is known to be short of food is surely the height of folly. The action decided on in N.A. Athens 323/ to M. E.W. seems the best solution in the circumstances. (C. in C., Med. 1333/27)

Italian Destroyer Sunk

OSIRIS reports sinking of Italian destroyer CURTATONE class in 037° Brindisi 47 at 1630 G.M.T. 22/9. Italian broadcast states this occurred in Ionian Sea presumable to conceal from Italians that submarines are penetrating into Adriatic. (C. in C., Med. 1335/27)

A.P. 1 and 2

Congratulations from War Cabinet on prompt arrival Admty 1016/27)

OSIRIS
PANDORA

Movements ordered (Capt. S. 1.) (1129/27)

Survivors of Submarine PROVANA

Your 1708/26 to C. in C., Med. A second enquiry regarding survivors of Italian PROVANA has been received from Bucharest. Submarine stated to have been sunk by a French warship in Mediterranean on 2/7. PROVANA last heard of on 30/6. PROVANA last heard of on 30/6. Have you any information? (Cape G.S., Alexandria 1253/27 to D.N.I.)

/TRIAD.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.9.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

TRIAD
TRUANT

To proceed Malta (dates) (Capt. S.I. 1401/27)

Six tombe sent to Takoradi (D.N.A.D., to C. in C., Med., 1824/27)

Italian Submarines

My 1818/25. Same informant states British ship from Greece aided Italian submarines to effect passage when last batch went through. Sounds false, but am inclined to believe a genuine grain of fact. Date and details unknown. (N.A. Madrid, 1801/27)

Malta Raid

1658/27. Formation of 9 enemy bombers accompanied by 12 fighters bombed Luqa and Hal Far aerodromes. Two enemy machines believed down, confirmation awaited. Some damage to Govt. property, no casualties. Govr. Malta, no T.O.O./27)

Air raid at 1700 by 9 bombers and about 15 fighters. engaged by 3 Hurricanes.
Hanger, runway and store at Luqa hit by bombs 2 unserviceable aircraft damaged in hanger.
One enemy fighter, 2 enemy bombers shot down and one possible fighter (H.O.I.C. Malta, 2211/27)

Turkey

Situation. From Admiral Kelly to C. in C., Med & ~~Vicinity~~ Adty (N.A. Angora, 1235/27)

East Indies

KENT

Your 1230/25. KENT can be taken in hand at Bombay. This will reduce Bombay's dry docking facility by 50%. Would it be preferable for KENT to be taken in hand at Singapore in order to permit Bombay continuing maximim output docking and repair work. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 05352/27 to Adty.)

KENT to be repaired at Singapore in order that refitting of A.M.C's all of which are now becoming due shall not be interrupted. (C. in C., E.I., 1332/27)

/EXPERIENCE .....

MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

ESPERANCE Intercepted

My 1234/25. French ship ESPERANCE intercepted 47 miles south of Aden and ordered in under armed guard. (C. in C., E.I., 10352/27)

ESPERANCE arrived Aden.
(ii) Captain had orders not to be captured. Armed Guard therefore left on board though attitude of Officers friendly.
(iii) Sailing orders say ship to evacuate from Djibuti 498 "Wounded, Invalids and demobilised persons withdrawn to Madagascar" This is evidently duty for which French Oiler GLORN was originally proposed no further ship is to bunker at Djibuti owing to shortage of coal at Madagascar.
(v) Ships stock comprises only minimum provisions for journey.
(vi) Your 0824/27. It is suggested friendly spirit may evaporate of ship is detained here longer than necessary for genuine contraband control.
(vii) Request early instructions.
(S.N.O., Red Sea Force, 1921/27 to C. in C., E.I.)

WESTRALIA ARAMA

To escort ORCADES to Cape Town. Then WESTRALIA to Mauritius to fuel (C. in C., E.I., 11122/27)

GLIMMAREN

Swedish ship GLIMMAREN is expected to leave Lorenzo Marques 28/9 for Madagascar to,load graphite for U.S.A. Is to be allowed to proceed as if she has a Ship Navicert, as a special case without prejudice to eventual decision on C. in C., E.I., 0728/25.
(A.C.N.S., (T) 2229/27)

MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

CHINA

Evacuation of French Troops from Djibuti to Indo China

C. in C., E.I., 1114Z/24 name of ship is LE COMTE DE LISLE. (C. in C., China, 0209Z/27 to Admty.)

Movements

SWARTENHONDT escorted by K 17. 016 K. 18. (C. in C., China 0223Z/27)

Defence of Straits Settlements

S. of S. for Colonies 815 to Gov. Straits Settlements. I fully agree with Governor's reply as to practical difficulties but in view of the added importance of this station now that cables through the Mediterranean have bee cut by Italians some defence against enemy landing parties seems desirable. (C. in C., China, 0613Z/27 to Adty.)

Release of French Ships for local Trade

Ypur 2002/7. Saigon authorities disposed to agree but unable to give decision at present owing to the stage their negotiations with Vichy have reached. Re employing B. I. vessels on India Japan runs. (C. in C., China 1203Z/27 to Adty.)

America & West Indies

BASTIAN

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1433/27. See Casualties and Defects.

MOST SECRET

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Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SALZBURG
LE PROGRESS

Arrivals September 26th German SALSBURG
Departures Panamanian Tanker LE PROGRESS.
(Constantza, 0236/27)

EISENACH

Panama reported 24/9. harbour pilot considers EISENACH possible preparing for sea.
Port (Puerto) Limon watching and considers report not true but is maintaining close watch. Tampico reports information received 26/9 from Manzanillo ship expected there shortly. (S.O.I. Kingston 1545/27)

DELOS

Left Galatz in ballast for a Russian Black Sea Port today. (D.S. 390)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ENDERTA
GRANATIERE
PADULA

ENDERTA sighted Wakamatsu 10/9.
GRANATIERE PADUAL off Nagoya 22/9. Both ships painted Yamashiba colour flying Italian Flag engaged in coal trade. (C. in C., Singapore 08412/27)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships attacked

ACHERN — Norwegian 1308 tons, torpedoed 0935/27, 56.35 N., 9.10 W., straggler from convoy O.A. 219 (D.S. 388)

PORT DENISON — My 2215/26. 49 survivors including Master and Commodore of convoy picked up. No further news of ship or remainder of crew. (C. in C., Rosyth 0749/27)

ASHANTIAN (Torpedoed 26/9) — Tug SUPERMAN to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1043/27) Sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1100/27) Asking for estimated position (C. in C., W.A. to WOLVES 1301/27) Boarded by WOLVES and anchored in 54.22 N., 09.33 W. (C. in C., W.A. 1657/27)

EURYMEDON (Torpedoed 26/9) — My 2118/26. Sinking in 53.34' N., 18.37 W., (OTTAWA 1141/27) OTTAWA to report if it can be salved. Meantime SALVONIA to proceed towards EURYMEDON (C. in C., W.A., 1451/27) Sank at 2005/27. Am proceeding to overtake S.L. 47 in Minch. (PRIMROSE, 2010/27)

CORRIENTES — Add to my 1220/26. CORRIENTES torpedoed at 0038/26 (C. in C., W.A., 1241/27)

Dinghy in position 54.12 N., 1.58 E., (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1410/27)

Submarines Reported

1000 — 53.48 N., 0.32 E., periscope reported (B. 3.) (D.S. 388) (Humber Radio) (0907/27)

0933 — S.W. of Iceland (A.I) position very indefinite (D.S. 388)

0833 — Enemy submarine reported 56.35 N., 09.10 W., at 0833 (C. in C., W.A. 0937) (D.D.I.C. 1430/27)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian No news
German 1 S.W. of Ireland possibly bound for Lorient.
1 S.W of Ireland at 0933/27 possibly moving northwards.
1 far out in Atlantic about 400° W. of Achill Head at 1623/26
2 Or 3 in N.W. Approaches of which one was in 56° 35' N., 9° 10 ' W., at 0935/27; one in about 54° 47' N., 11° 37' W., at 0940/26; whereabouts of third unknown. Possibly
1 N.W of North Rona outward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1249/27)

MOST SECRET

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Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

2103 By PEONY 58.14 N., 05.45 W., echo nowpoint on rejoining convoy. (PEONY 2103/27) Position 58.11 N., 05.49' W., (PEONY 2155/27 A.C.O.S. 2232/27) PEONY considers sunk U/B in 58.12 N., 05.50 W., and has been detached to investigate. (POWEY continuing with convoy (POWEY 2045/27) WHITHORNE to proceed with WISTERIA and ELM to investigate. (F.O.C.C.S.,2202/27)

C. in C., W.A. 1103 /25. After consultation with C.O. ARABIS, the following possibilities appear.
1. Internal explosion in U-Boat damaged by earlier attack.
2. U-Boat striking mine adrift from minefield
3. Accident in U-Boat while reloading tubes due to crash dive on sighting ARABIS's approaching bows on.
4. Possibility of disturbance being due to torpedo exploding at end run has been considered but is improbable due to distance from ARABIS which was only ship in sight. (Capt. (D) Liverpool 1301/27)

Following is repetition of 1103/25 from C. in C., W.A. :- On return to harbour ARABIS is to report re her 0925/21 whether (a) she was hunting a contact when explosion occurred. (b) there was any subsequent evidence of submarine striking mine such as wreckage (c) What was probable accuracy of her position at 0913/21 as nearest mine should have been 7 miles north. 1103/25.

1530 Sunderland aircraft reported 4 submerged U-Boats in position 15 miles S. of Pilfa at 1530 steering east. VOYAGER and 2 A/S trawlers carrying out search. (N.O.I.C., Malta 2211/27)

1

Last Sunt.

28.9.40
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT
Home Commands

Employment of A/S vessels.

C-in-C, Home Fleet, urges that having regard to the present success of the U-boat campaign the A/S vessels which were transferred a fortnight ago to anti-invasion duties, should again be employed on A/S operations.

Search for enemy force off Stavanger

There were indications that an enemy force, possibly including HIPPER vessels and fighter aircraft was 60 miles West of Stavanger at 1400 to-day. Two forces, one consisting of HOOD, NAIAD and three destroyers from Rosyth and the other of REPULSE, NORFOLK, BERWICK and 5 destroyers from Scapa proceeded to sea to try to intercept.
Air reconnaissance to-day showed that BISMARCK and a HIPPER class cruiser have left Kiel. The former has not yet completed her building trials.

RECOIL lost

A/S trawler RECOIL on patrol 9 to 14 miles off Portland Bill completely disappeared last night. She was on the same patrol as LOCH MONTEITH when she had her bows blown off 24/9 and within 3 miles of where TRITO was sunk 21/9.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on enemy invasion bases. 27 tons of bombs were dropped on Lorient where 10 enemy submarines are reported. Attacks to-day were made by reconnaissance a/c on docks at Ostend and oil tanks at Dunkirk.

Enemy Air Activity

A fire was started in The Thames Ammunition Works last night but the damage was negligible. An attack by incendiary bombs last night on Milford Haven Mine Depot caused no damage. Slight damage was caused by a bomb last night at the R.V.Y. Deptford.

Convoy HX 73A was attacked this evening off Kinnaird Head. S.S. DALVREN was sunk and QUEEN CITY was damaged and taken in tow by a rescue tug for Aberdeen.
Convoy FN 92 was bombed off Whitby this afternoon without damage being caused.
EREBUS was unsuccessfully attacked in the Thames Estuary this afternoon.

Most Secret.

28.9.40
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT
Mining

Operation MU — This operation, which was abandoned on night 26/27 was carried out last night.

Tees and Hartlepool are still closed.

Operations against Vichy French

AUSTRALIA, ARK ROYAL, FORTUNE and ECHO arrived at Freetown to-day.
The French sloop minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE passed Gibraltar East to West escorting two merchant ships at 1415 to-day.
Temporary repairs to CUMBERLAND have been effected and 3/4 power can be obtained on all 4 shafts, but C-in-C S.A. considers repairs should be undertaken in a dockyard at an early date.
DELHI sailed from Freetown to join Force H this morning.
At 1822 to-day F.O.C.N.A. reported to the Admiralty that he learnt from Tangier that RICHELIEU, 2 cruisers and several destroyers left Dakar shortly after the British squadron retired. One of the cruisers was said to have arrived at Casablanca but the destination of the remaining ships was not known. RICHELIEU is said to be able to steam 18 knots. All the above vessels were identified by photographic reconnaissance at 1045/26 as being still at Dakar.
Two unidentified bomber aircraft flew over Freetown to-day and were engaged by ships and A/A defences.

South Atlantic

CORNWALL left Freetown at 0600/28 for Duala, to prevent any interference by French Vichy forces there.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — Humber 3, Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 2. (D.C. 1531/28)

Gunnery against Invading Units at Sea — In the event of attempted invasion any ship may be faced with conditions which, although simple, are not normally practised. Targets may be numerous, unarmoured ships or barges, towed or self-propelling, ranges short or point blank. Economy in ammunition may be necessary and it may be preferable to cripple many of the enemy rather than to sink a few. If barges are in tow the tug should first be sunk or disabled. Raking shots will inflict the greatest damage on unarmoured vessels. At very short ranges, Quarters Firing may be preferable to Director Firing as director salvos are liable to miss owing to uncorrected dip. 2. It is not Their Lordships intention that the foregoing remarks should supersede any orders already issued by responsible authorities. (A.C.N.S. H. 1535/28. A Message Home, 854 AZ)

Policy

KENYA — Reasons in your 2215/27 are appreciated, but we cannot now weaken our anti-invasion Forces. Unlikely that KENYA while on Escort Duty will encounter Enemy Ships. (1st S.L. 1041/28 to C. in C., H.F.) I thought KENYA might have to fight 2 or even 3 French Cruisers, but in view of your 1041/28 I have nothing more to say. (C. in C., H.F. 1857/28)

New Dangerous Area — Re Portlands 1430/28. Consider advisable to promulgate a Dangerous Area. But causes of Ship's disappearence, of loss of TRITO, and of damage to LOCH MONTEITH, are still unknown and, although in same area, may be unrelated. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1627/28 to Adty.)

Capt. D. 12 — Request approval for Capt. D. 12 and his staff to disembark from KEPPEL to a shore office at Greenock. (C. in C., W.A., 1741/28 to Adty.)

Use of A/S Vessels — Your 1838/27. Concur in principles involved. Considering present success of U-Boat campaign, I again urge that our available A/S Vessels be employed on A/S operations. Adty. 2358/13/9 refers (C. in C., H.F. 1714/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Nore Command — Dispositions for night 28/29, (C. in C., Nore 0800/28)
Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/29. (C. in C Nore, 1200/28)
M.T.B's and M.L's available tonight (C. in C., Nore, 1929/28)

VERSATILE / **VIMY** — My 1618/27. Cancel last sentance. VERSATILE to proceed Invergordon on relief by VIMY and be available for Escort of ULSTER MONARCH (C. in C., H.F. 1123/28 to VERSATILE)

Dover — Patrols for night 28/29. (V.A.Dover, 1232/28)

Portsmouth — Movements for night 28/29. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1507/28)

Orkneys — Movements for night 28/29. (A.C.O.S. 1531/28 and 1642/28) Trawler Lines occupied tonight (A.C.O.S. 1536/28)

Anti-Invasion Patrol — Tonight MACKAY, WITCH, BULLDOG, STURDY, patrol eastward to Lydd Light Vessel and southward to 50° 5' N., (C. in C., Portsmouth 1637/28 to Adty.)

ARROW — Sails for full calibre firing and to comply with C. in C., W.A's 153/26. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1645/28 to Adty.)

Northern Patrol — LAURENTIC and CIRCASSIA Movements. (F.O.C.N.P. 1800/28)

CAMPBELTOWN — Sailed. Expect arrive Hartland Point 0730/29 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1925/28)

CASTLETON / **CLARE** / **CALDWELL** / **CHELSEA** — Arrived 1645. (Ex U.S.A. Destroyers) (C. in C., 1935/28 to Adty.)

EREBUS — Anchor S. of Edinburgh Channel. Proceed at first daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 2046/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation D.H. Attack on Shipping at Tromso

N.I.D. 0300/24/9. I would like to put on Operation D.H. When will prohibition of your 0122/12/9 be removed. (C. in C., H.F. 1001/28 to Adty.) There is no objection to carrying out these operations as they will not remove Forces from the main theatre. (1st S.L. 1738/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

Search for Enemy Force off Stavanger

REPULSE, NORFOLK, BERWICK, and available Destroyers at Scapa raide steam with all despatch. (C. in C., H.F. 1543/28) There are indications that an enemy force which may include HIPPER, M/V's and Fighter aircraft was 60 miles West of Stavanger at 1400 today. F.O.C. 1st B.S. in HOOD, with NAIAD and 3 Destroyers, to proceed through 57° 5' N., 0° 20' W. towards 62° N., 3° 30' E., R.A.D. H.F. in REPULSE, with BERWICK, NORFOLK, and available destroyers at Scapa to proceed East of Orkneys towards 62° N., 3° 30' E. If no further news of enemy by 0900/29, Scapa and R Rosyth Forces are then to steer to R/V in 62° N., 1° E. (C. in C., H.F. 1643/28) Intend proceeding at 1945/28 with REPULSE, BERWICK, NORFOLK, SOMALI, MATABELE, ESKIMO, PUNJABI, DUNCAN, to comply with C. in C. H.F's 1643/28 to Adty.) Intend to pass through First Position in C. in C., H.F's 1643/28 at 0040/29. Speed 22 knots. (F.O.C 1st B.S. 1932/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

Start Point A/S Trawler Patrols AX.BY.CZ.

3 Patrols for A/S Trawlers are to be established and will be referred to by letters AX, BY, CZ. respectively. Positions of each Patrol as follows. Tonight Patrol CZ. (C. in C. C.A., 1603/28 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

Operation M.W.C

Carry out Operation M.W.C. Zero hour 2200 (V.A.Dover 1201/28 to Adty. A.C.O.S., C. in C., Bomber, Coastal, and Fighter Commands, C. in C., Nore, EREBUS, etc.,) to conform EREBUS has cancelled operation M.W. tonight owing to weather. (V.A.DOver, 2151/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

28.9.1940
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

TRIDENT
TIGRIS

Positions. Do not attack submarines between 0600/1/10 and receipt of TUNA and TRIBUNE situation reports unless visual identification as hostile. (Capt. S. 2. 1043/28 to submarines on patrol Area B. negative submarines on patrol Portsmouth area)

Establishment of Patrols

Request the fact that a British submarine will be operating as from 0001/30 until further notice in the area defined in my 1323/26 may be promulgated by A Z message and that surface vessels may be warned not to attack submarines in this area unless hostile identity is established. (V.A.S. 1103/28 to Adty.)

Request bombing restrictions in above area until further notice. (V.A.S. 1104/28 to H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S.) Amending his 1523/26 (V.A.S. 1244/28)

SNAPPER

Amendment to 1641/27 (Position and Movements) (V.A.S. 0638/28)

H. 43.

Sailing and bombing restrictions. (S. 5. 1140 /28)

L. 27.

Asking that she may continue operating (C. in C., Portsmouth 1307/28) Reply. Certainly (V.A.S. 1848/28)

Patrol Areas

Amendments to Area D. 4. Cancelling Area S. 3. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1313/28)

UPRIGHT

Orders to R.V. with ARCTIC PIONEER (Capt.S 5 1357/28)

5th S.F.

Patrol closer inshore where this is possible and take every opportunity of attacking important enemy targets. (Capt S. 5. 1703/28)

Positions and Movements

0700/29. (V.A.(S) 1719/28)

Submarine in Convoy O.A. 221

Movements escorted by LINCOLN CITY (A.C.O.S 2152/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Nieuwe Waterway — Attacks on M/V and Convoy on 27/9. (B.C. Summary No 450.)

Ostend, Calais, Boulogne, Havre, Lorient, St Brieue — Attacks on Batteries, Docks, and shipping on night 27/28. (B.C. Summary, No 451)

Fighter Escort, Fighter Protection & Fighter Cover — Definition of these Terms. (D.O.D. H. 1130/28)

Rosyth Air Escorts — For 29/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1944/28)

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage — Adty. Letter M/LD 0999/40 F/I of 26/8. Suggest Barrage be provided by 6 craft with each convoy, 2 in Reserve with crews, and 2 spare crews. Request remarks, and which available craft considered suitable for service in Winter. (A.C.N.S. H. 2031/28) to C. in C., Nore.)

Enemy Air Activity

Loss of Time at Portsmouth — 12,500 man hours were lost at Portsmouth Naval Establishments during the week ending 1200/28 owing to air raid warnings. Efforts are being made to reduce thses losses by special warning systems. (C. E. in C's weekly appreciation)

Milford Haven — 3 Incendiary Bombs dropped in Mine Depot last night at 2000. No Adty. damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1002/28 to Adty.)

Deptford — 2 small H.E. Bombs on Royal Victoria Yard on night of 27th. Slight damage. No fire or casualties. (O.C.W. Deptford, 1035/28) Details of damage (Supt. R.V.Y. 1327/28 to Adty.)

Convoy AGENT — A/C bombing (WOLFHOUND 1515/28) One miss My position 54° 30' N., 0° 5' E., (WOLFHOUND)1530/28)

Convoy BACON — Being shadowed by A/C at 51° 30' N., 1° 20' E.,(FERNIE 1721/28)

/EREBUS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

EREBUS — Attacked by one aircraft in Edinburgh Channel. (EREBUS 1732/28)

I.P. Building — Time Bomb found about 50 feet across main road from Building. Request Disposal Unit be informed. (I.P. 1902/28 to Adty.)

Convoy H.X. 73A
DALVEEN
QUEEN CITY

Enemy bombing Convoy H.X.A 58° 10' N., 2° 19' W., (FOWEY 2022/28) My 2025. One ship hit. Aflont, on fire forward. Position 58° 2' N., 2° 9' W., (FOWEY 2047/28) Send Tug (C. in C., Rosyth, 2043/28 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.) Air attack on Convoy H.X. 73A at 2022/28 in 58° 10' N., 2° 10' W., DALVEEN (British 5193 tons) sunk, and QUEEN CITY, (British, 4814 tons) damaged. Both abandoned early and 31 survivors of DALVEEN landed at Lyness, 12 missing. QUEEN CITY being towed to Aberdeen by rescue tug ABEILLE IV; 37 survivors landed at Lyness and Master an 14 men at Fraserburgh. (C. in C., Rosyth 1227/29 to Adty.)
SS. QUEEN CITY now in tow ABEILLE IV for Aberdeen, cannot enter harbour until 1300/30 Necessary precautions have been taken. During night master reports enemy aircraft showing navigation lights, attacked from north, after attacking DALVEEN. One High Explosive bomb and one incendiary hit ship Two near misses. Ship seaworthy steering gear disabled and upper deck burnt. Ship abandoned, but master, 2nd engineer and salvage officer now on board. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1839/29)
QUEEN CITY in tow of tug ABEILLE IV arrived off Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 1943/29)
State of QUEEN CITY (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2133/29)

Mining

Operation M.U. — FLOVER reports operation completed at 0130/28 (V.A.DOver 0714/28 to Adty.)

North Minch — Consider that a Deep Minefield should be laid between Butt of Lewis and Cape Wrath and also between Barra and Tiree to prevent U-Boats from using the Minches which heavy Traffic in winter and bad Atlantic weather are likely to render a good U-Boat hunting ground unless steps are taken to prevent it (c. in C., Rosyth 1131/28 to Adty.)

/Firth of Forth..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Firth of Forth — 2 Red Mines exploded by LL Sweeper today South of Q.Z.S. 142 at 56° 4' 30" N., 2° 53' 24" W., and at 56° 4' 24" N., 2° 53' 54" W., respectively. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1205/28 to Adty.) Amended position of mines 56° 4' 9" N., 2° 55' 12" W., and 56° 4' N., 2° 55' 30" W., (C. in C., Rosyth 1901/28 to Adty.)

S.N. 42 and S.N. 43 — Do you consider Mines for S.N. 42 should be sterilised and, of so, will this delay the operation. Suhhest using SCOTT to observe behavior of Mines. S.N. 43 is under consideration (A.C.N.S. H. 1229/28 to RAML) Units are being sterilised. No delay. Concur as to using SCOTT (RAML 1841/28 to Adty.)

Tees & Hartlepool — Closed. Ships in F.N. 92 for these Ports should be sent to Tyne. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1822/28 to VANITY)

ARK ROYAL — Your 2256/26. With regard to channel swept for Magnetic Mines, it is pointed out that ARK ROYAL is not fitted with F and Q coils (ARK ROYAL 1914/27 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Scheldt, Zeebrugge Hook, Tiengemeten — On 27/9. (B.C.Summary No 450)

French, Belgian, Dutch & German North Sea Ports and Kiel — Summary of Photographic R/C's on 28/9. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/28)

Unknown Enemy Unit — Probably Surface Vessel in 59° N., 3° 30' E at 1400 B.S.T. D/F fix, unreliable (D.D.I.C 1537/28) (V.A.S. 1541/28 to S.N.D. 21)

Flushing — At 1100/28. Photographs. (P.I.U. 1823/28 to N.I.D.)

Wilhelmshaven — TIRPITZ in Floating Dock, one Destroyer 8 T.B's, one S/M one Minelayer and one Coastal Defence Ship. (P.I.U. 1935/28 to N.I.D.)

/German Main.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence- Contd.

German Main Units	Kiel 23/9 Wilhelmshaven 25/9. (D.D.I.C. 1939/28 to A.I.G.)
Stavanger	Indications that enemy force which may include HIPPER M/V's and Fighter aircraft, was 60 miles West of Stavanger at 1400/28 (V.A.S. 2003/28 to submarines Area A.)
GNEISENAU) & SCHARNHORST)	Photographic R/C on 28/9 shows both ships in Docks at Kiel. BISMARCK and HIPPER not seen. (D.D.I.C. 2202/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

NOTTS COUNTY — A/S Trawler. Arrived 0930 damaged after collision with NORTHERN DAWN (P.O.I.C. Portland 1158/28 to N.O.I.C., Dartmouth)

RECOIL — Regret to report complete disappearance of A/S Trawler RECOIL from Patrol during night 27/28. Vessel was patrolling from 239° Portland Bill 9 miles to 256° Portland Bill 14 miles. Sea slight wind N.W. Force 2 to 3 dark and clear night. A/S Trawler HERTFORDSHIRE on patrol 6 miles to eastward of RECOIL nothing to report. A/S Trawler on patrol 6 miles to westward of RECOIL reports (1) hearing a loud explosion considered to be a mine at 2116 this time being noted by the Coxwain only and (2) at 0315 a strong smell of oil when approaching western end of line patrolled by RECOIL. A/C has thoroughly searched patrol line and area St. Albans Head to Start Point and can find no wreckage nor any trace of oil.
Last heard of RECOIL was when she acknowledged a signal at 2119, no replies received when called at 0400 or subsequently. This patrol is the same as LOCH MONTEITH was on when her bows were blown off a.m. 24th September and within 3 miles of where Dutch M/V TRITO was sunk a.m. 21st Sept. Signal requesting a dangerous area in the vicinity to be prescribed has been made. (P.O.I.C. Portland, 1430/28 to Adty.)

CALABRIA — My 0025/27. Cancel CALABRIA (S.O.I. Cape-Town 1135B/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Rosyth Escort Force

Admty. 1838/27 para B. If four sloops are attached to Rosyth Force in addition to those asked for in my 1747/27 one sloop would be available to back up E.N. and W.N. convoys transferring between Dunnet Head and Cape Wrath.

North Minch Minefield

It is also considered that a deep minefield should be laid in the North Minch between Butt of Lewis and Cape Wrath and also between Barra and Tiree to deny the Minches to U-Boats. With the volume of traffic whcih will go through the Minches this winter and the bad weather which will be experienced in the Atlantic this route is likely to become a happy hunting ground for submarines unless steps are taken to prevent it. (C. in C., Rosyth 1131/28)

Commodores

Commodores of HX, HG, SC and SL convoys are in future always to report to the Admiralty Trade Division as convenient after arrival (D.T.D. 1730/28)

Absentees

Names of ships which have been included in convoy sailing telegram and return to Assembly ports after sailing should be reported to Admiralty on arrival. Examples GUNVOR MAERSK from HX.74 and SHEAF MOUNT from HX. 75. (D.T.D. 1803/28)

Balloon Barrage

Admty. letter M/LD 0999/40 F/I, 26/8.
As Channel Convoy is now working on an eight day cycle owing to difficulty in providing suitable vessels for service during winter months, it is suggested that Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage should be provided as follows:-
(i) Six craft to accompany each convoy
(ii) Two vessels in reserve with crews
(iii) Two spare crews.
Request remarks. (D. of L.D. 2031/28 to C. in C., Nore)

MOST SECRET

28.9.1940.
Saturday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

General.

Raiders.

Your 1004/27. North Atlantic. Last known loss was CYMBELINE on 2/9 near Azores. Further movements of this raider cannot be traced.

South Atlantic. No firm news but analysis of overdue ships together with a report of gunfire heard in 19°28' S. 08° 54' W on 14/9 indicate probability that there are two raiders operating one having been off the American coast in approx. 15°S on 20/9.

Indian Ocean. 4 ships have been sunk or captured since 27/8 and five ships are overdue. One raider operating between 40° and 80° east in the Cape India and Cape Australia routes could have accounted for all of these.

Pacific. Last known loss was the TURAKINA on 20/8. Subsequent movements of this raider are not known but she may have returned to the Indian Ocean.

It is probable that a total of 4 to 5 raiders are at large. (D.D.I.C.2227/28 to C.in C.H.F.)

Operations against Vichy French.

Situation at Konakri

My 0027/28. Part one. Following for General Ismay from General Spears. Your 0115/26. Arrived Freetown morning of 27th. De Gaulle seen Emissary from French Guinea. Situation there is not ripe though promising. Konakri strongly reinforced and suffering from excitement after Dakar, this emphasized by two Glen Martins flying Freetown afternoon 27th. (C.in C.,S.A.0001/28 to Admiralty)

De Gaulle's Plans.

My 0027 part two. Nevertheless French Major Allegret, excellent type who joined from Guinea promises a battalion of Senegalese quietly collected in Sierra Leone around nucleus brought over by him within a month. He asserts native troops best to take over Guinea. In view of this and the fact that Vichy may stir up trouble Equatorial Africa, De Gaulle intended to take his force to Duala assert his authority and take Gabon and Libreville where several Dakar ships now are. (C.in C.,S.A. 0005/28 to Admiralty)

My 0027 Part 3. When Equatorial Africa completely in hand will send battalion "Legion" to Egypt necessity from psychological aspect for his movement to have force fighting Italians. He intends making Takoradi his aviation base and there land and set up his planes. From there they can fly to Equatorial Africa or operate in West Africa.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.9.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations against Vichy French.

De Gaulle's Plans (contd.)

Within about a month when intensive propaganda should have told he intends to take action in West Africa. Support of British troops will not be needed then. Question of protection of harbours of Equatorial Africa from ships remains vital. (C.in C., S.A. 0013/28 to Admiralty)

My 0027 part 4. De Gaulle hopes crew of submarine, and passengers and crew of TOUAREG will not be released until certain of his envoys to Dakar are safe. Could they not also be exchanged for our airmen? Free French troops morale high. Exasperated at having been fired at and longing to fight. It now appears that Dakar authorities at last moment manned shore batteries with sailors. (C.in C., S.A. 0021/28 to Admiralty)

Feeling at Dakar.

My 0027 Part 5 final. Nevertheless Goree Island battery never tried to hit French ship. It also seems incredible Vichy cruiser should not have found free French transport shadowed by plane when Fusiliers Marins were landing at Rufisque had they wanted to. Wing-Commander Milne was in ARK ROYAL says impression of French airmen at Oualam was part of aerodrome favourable others pro Vichy. (C.in C., S.A. 0027/28, 1827/28 to Admiralty.)

DELHI

Your 1026/27. DELHI sails 0635 and will join you at 1200/28. (C.in C., S.A.0309/28 to S.O., Force M)

French Aircraft over Freetown.

G/1391/20/9. Two bomber aircraft believed French flew over Freetown 1615/27 and were fired on by H.M.Ships but not by A.A.battery. (?I have) issued orders that in future any non British aircraft are to be fired on. (G.O.C.West Africa 0335/28 to W.O.)

My position course and speed at 0800 008° 54' 015°17' 120° 6½ knots RESOLUTION in tow. List of 007°, Maximum draught 38 feet. All fires extinguished. Ship able to steam. Intend to cast off tow this evening. (F.O., Force H. 0801N/28)

RENOWN is to return to Gibraltar and fuel. Situation will then be reviewed. Whilst RENOWN is in harbour the best possible arrangements are to be made to obtain warning of approach of French ships from Eastwards. (V.C.N.S.1049/28 to S.O., Force H)

Escape of French Force from Toulon.

Your 0054/27. RENOWN left Gib 1630/11 screened by GRIFFIN, VELOX, VIDETTE, and passed through position 35°43' 06°26'

MOST SECRET.

28.9.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations against Vichy French.

Escape of French Force from Toulon (contd.)

at 2000 making good 236° 22 knots. At 0210/12 altered course to 210° and at 0310 reduced to 16 knots to allow VIDETTE to rejoin from her encouter with French destroyer see my 0617/12. At 0500 resumed 22 knots and at 0930 on receipt of report of air reconnaissance of Casablanca altered course to 042° 16 knots. HOTSPUR with WISHART and ENCOUNTER left Gibraltar at 2100/11 and from Spartel steered 230° 20 knots to position 34°05', 08°30' thence 220° 16 knots to R.V. with RENOWN at 1330/12. At 1343 all units altered course to 245° and at 1553 to 205°. At 1715 altered course 357° and spread to be on starting line of patrol given in my 1109/12 by 2030. (S.O., Force H, 1705/28)

Interception of French M.V's and Warships.

Do instructions contained in your 0253/22 still hold.
(ii) What is relative importance of avoiding incidents with French warships.
(S.O., Force H, 1715/28 to Admiralty).

S.O., Force M.

Proceeding Freetown at 0800 (S.O., Force M, 0724/28 to ARK ROYAL, AUSTRALIA, ECHO, FORTUNE).

AUSTRALIA

Arrived 1300/28

ARK ROYAL

Arrived 1400/28
(S.O.(I), Freetown 1405/28)

FORTUNE

Arrived. (S.O.(I), Freetown 1647H/28)

ECHO
LA GRACIEUSE

(French Sloop minesweeper) passed Gib. East to West 1415/28 escorting 2 M.V's. (S.O.(I), Gib. 1827/28, 2323/28).

S/M Crew.

Re disposal of crew of S/M sunk off Dakar (C.in C., S.A.2001/28)

Forces "Allow" & "Shrapnel".

Re accommodation and reorganisation. Unsuitability of Freetown. Takoradi proposed. (C.O.C., West Africa 1655/28 to W.O., W.O. to C.O.C., West Africa 2100/28).

CUMBERLAND.

Estimated state 3/10 hull external temporary repairs efficient. Main engines 6 boilers in action and all 4 shafts 3/4 power. Could relieve CORNWALL at Duala leaving Freetown about 3/10 if required but consider repairs should be undertaken by a yard at early date. (C.in C., S.A., 1437/28).

My 1831 part 1. S.O.Force M's 1133/26. General De Gaulle has announced his present intention to go to Duala. I discussed the situation with him. I consider any operation against Konakri on lines of that against Dakar, that is, proceeding by negotiation

MOST SECRET.

28.9.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French (contd.)

and ultimatum is now undesirable and that any such operation should only be undertaken either (a) as a combined (military) operation against a definite hostile port where full opposition is expected and full advantage of surprise taken. (C.in C.,S.A. 1807/28 to Admiralty). (b) A surprise landing or entry from land frontier by free French on assumption that an internal movement will result and effect a turn over to De Gaulle. No other force to be used except measures to prevent interference by sea and air, in fact, an operation similar to ?that at Duala from land or sea. (c) Invasion over land ?frontier made with Naval action as required.

Re (a). De Gaulle's force alone is not organised or equipped to carry out a combined Military operation against opposition from forts and at landing point(s), such as would be required at Konakri, even with assistance of British Navy.

(b). Success of surprise entry seems unlikely at present.

(c). If considered would be for a future date.

I consider that De Gaulle's intention to move to Duala the best plan under present circumstances though the control of Konakri and French Guinea is an important factor in security of Freetown. (C.in C., S.A. 1831/28).

French Force leaves Dakar. Information through C.C.,Tangier from source considered to be reliable and known to For. Off. states RICHELIEU, 2 cruisers, and several destroyers left Dakar shortly after British squadron retired. One of the cruisers is said to have arrived Casablanca but destination of remaining ships was not known. RICHELIEU said to be able to cruise at 18 knots. Same source reports that French naval authorities desire to resume convoys both to Bordeaux and Marseilles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1822/28 to Admiralty).

French Air Reconnaissance of Freetown. 1 Glen Martin bomber carried out R.C. over Freetown 1015/28 and made off to northwards after being fired at. (C.in C., S.A., 1823?/28)

MOST SECRET.

28.9.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Ships. My 1801/27. Same informant states ship was only recently acquired by us. 4400 tons. With change of flag name was changed. Has made 3 unescorted voyages to England with food. Now extras in convoy. In last fortnight of August assisted Italian Submarine to pass Straits. Paid £2000 for each case of assisting Submarine. (Madrid 1830/28 to D.N.I.)

2815 cipher 28/9. Reconnaissance plane over Rock 1500/27. Driven off by A.A. fire. Also engaged by Spanish gunfire. (Gov.,Gib. 1305/28)

Evacuations, Lisbon. Admiralty 0159/17 and my 1230/26. About(?) British subjects have already registered for passage NEURALIA. Almost certain 180 Polish troops also, hope to augment this to 300. (N.C.S.O.,Lisbon, 1538/28)

Accommodation at Funchal. Your 1704/24 and 1127/27. Action is to cease forthwith. If any rumours are started as a result of what has already happened explain, if necessary, that preparations were for reception of refugees. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2023/28 to N.C.S.O.,Funchal)

Interception of French merchant ships. Your 1304/27. Reply is under consideration. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2312/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL (to Duala) Your 1912/26 and my 1913/27. CORNWALL sailed 0300/29 and expects to arrive at Manoka Anchorage 1700Z/1/10. (C.in C.,S.A.,0639M/28)

CALABRIA. Overdue shipping. My 0925/27. Cancel ex-Italian CALABRIA. (S.O.(I),Capetown 1135B/28).

PRETORIA CASTLE. Adjust Patrol X arrive Freetown 0730/2/10. To escort SL 50, sailing 3/10. (C.in C., S.A. 1445/28).

D.F. Bearings. Your 2020/26. Recent bearings from Simonstown have shown large negative error. (C.in C., S.A. 2112/28 to Admiralty).

Suspicious Ships. My 1815/24/S. Master of GRENA reports sighting at 1100 A T S 19/9 in 013° 03'S 041°59'E suspicious vessel identical with that reported by STRAAT MALACCA. Vessel closed to within 2 miles and attempted to head off GRENA who kept vessel on a bearing for after gun. Vessel ultimately gave up chase and proceeded on an easterly course at 15 knots. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1300/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.9.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

In view of unstability of French situation at Alexandria I am proceeding with only WARSPITE, VALIANT and ILLUSTRIOUS for operation detailed in my 1637/24 para.A and should Italian Fleet come to sea I shall only seek to engage them should conditions be very favourable. (C.in C.Med. 1627/28)

Submarine Sanctuary — N.O.i/c Malta 1651/28 to C.in C.Med. in reply to his 0949/27.

TRIAD TRUANT — Orders (N.O.i/c Malta 1657/28)

Payments to Godfrey. — Reply to C.in C.Med.2315/10. (1st Lord 1731/28)

PROVANA — (Italian S/M). Your 1253/27 (re survivors). No information. (D.D.I.C.1747/28 to Capt.O.S. Nile).

Air Raid Reports. — Re duplication. H.Q. to prepare one report only and send to W.O. who will distribute. (Admiralty 1834/28 to V.A.Malta).

PERSEUS. — Orders. (Capt. S.I. 1906/28)

4 U-Boats Reported off Malta. — Search for Italian U-boats reported in my 2211"27 unsuccessful. These were sighted with conning towers awash and not submerged as previously reported. Most improbable U-boats would be operating on the surface close together in daylight 20 miles from Malta but crew of the aircraft stick to their story. (V.A.Malta 2221/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28/9/1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Detention of French Ships Bound for Djibuti

Your 1921/27, para 6. Comply with Admty. message 2211/26. It is hoped that further instructions will not be long delayed. (C. in C., E.I. 07382/28 to S.N.O. Red Sea)

WESTRALIA
ARAWA

Amedding R.V. given in 1112/27 (C. in C., E.I. 07522/28)

KHEDIVE ISMAIL
KOROA

Your 1302/25 (re proposed movements) Proposals suitable subject to confirmation from C. in C., E.I., and C. in C., S.A. (D. of S.T., 1815/28 to SSTO Bombay)

R.N. 6.

Ships and details of contents. (P.S.T.O. Bombay 0900/28)

ESPERANCE
Supplies for Djibuti

S.N.O.R.S.F. 1921/27.
(1) ESPERANCE to be detained until further orders.
(2) General Policy is to restrict passage of supplies to Djibuti
(3) Policy is however under active discussion between Governor Aden and H.M. Govt. and any action taken or proposed should be co-ordinated with him. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1912/28 to S.N.O. R.S.F., C. in C., E.I.)

China

CAP VARELLA
Evacuation of French Troops to Indo China from Djibuti not to be Facilitated.

Your 2212/26. I have given Governor General Indo China the assurance specified in your 0059/13. Sailing under this guarantee CAP VARELLA passed Sunda Strait 22/9, bound for Aden. To avoid possible accusations of bad faith propose now to inform Admiral Decoux that ship will not at present be permitted to proceed beyond Aden. This would also allow him to recall her and stop second ships sailing if he so desires. (C. in C., China, 05572/28 to Adty.)

Trade with Indo-China

Proposing C.G. should arrange that there will be no interference by Japanese with our legitimate trade with Indo-China when this is resumed. (C. in C., China 04192/28 to V-C Haiphong)

/French Shipping.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd.

French Shipping
ILE DE FRANCE

Your 0920/6 and 0345/21. No safe conduct to Europe can be given to any ship under French flag.

2. British liners are not permitted to call at Lisbon or Dakar. The VICEROY OF INDIA could only bring seamen to the U.K. and on no account should they be sent there.

3. Japanese or other neutral ship remains best method of repatriation but as Japanese ship is not likely to be available the whole question is being urgently re-considered.

4. Do you considere there is now any possibility of persuading any more of the crew to serve under British Flag.

5. It has been decided to use ILE DE FRANCE as a troopship.

(A.C.N.S. (T) 1732/28 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

Concessions to U.S.A. (re Bases)

Reply to 1231/20 (Adty. 1314/28 to C. in C., A.M.I.)

LEOPOLDVILLE

My 1121/26. Delayed. Revised date of sailing. 100 troops embarking, and M. of Shipping to use cargo space for U.K.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1518/28)

Australia

STRATHEDEN
BATORY

Your 0610Z/26. Agree with proposed route MANOORA to escort.

MAURETANIA

To be sailed for Melbourne via Fremantle
(A.C.N.B.I.1206/28

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN	Crowsnest has been rigged on foremast. (B.C. Las Palmas, 1815/28)
NORBURG	Left in Ballast Russia
LARISSA	Arrived Poti with 3000 tons manganese ore for Germany. (Macrea Galati 1224/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.7.1940
Saturday

U-Boat Campaign

Ships Attacked

MONTCLARE — Indications that a submarine may be following you (C. in C., W.A., 0943/28)

CORRIENTES (Torpedoed 28/9) — No sign of CORRIENTES or wreckage. My position. (HAVELOCK 0720/28) SALVONIA to proceed. (F.O.i/c Greenock 0631/28) Is CORRIENTES still afloat. (C. in C., W.A., 0557/28 to HAVELOCK) Return Campbeltown. (F.O.i/c Greenock 2237/28 to SALVONIA)

EMPIRE OCELOT — Torpedoed in 54° 37' N., 21° 30' W., at 1521. PICOTEE, FANDANGO to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1543/28) SALVONIA proceed to assist. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1627/28)

S.O.S. intercepted 2059 G.M.T. bearing 145° unreliable from Cullercoats Radio. Bearing from Humber Radio 2059 G.M.T. 009° (Cullercoats 2221/28)

KEDDE Escaped — Attacked by submarine 54° 39' N., 24° 19' W torpedoes missed 2250 G.M.T. (Rosyth 2250/28) Not in convoy.

BLAIRANGUS
ELMBANK
TORLANA
PUTNEY HILL
(Torpedoed 20-21/9)

SS PIKEPOOL arrived St. John's today with 28 survivors including master of BLAIRANGUS and 17 Europeans 38 Lascars, also body of master of ELMBANK.
Distress sigbals of above two ships, SS ELMBANK 55° 20' N., 22° 30' W., BLAIRANGUS 55° 19' N., 22° 19' W., were received during night of 20/21-9 and distress signals from steamships TORLANA and PUTNEY HILL during night of 21/9.
Reported third engineer of ELMBANK was on board U 14 larger of two attacking submarines which came alongside his boat. Other submarine smaller. Masters think that submarines working in pairs.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 2230/28)

/Submarines.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.9.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

1133 — By Military authorities Belfast, intercept from Athlone to Dublin. S/M unknown nationalities moving inside territorial waters, 7 miles E. Lenadoon Pt. at 1133/28 (F.O.i/c Belfast 1241/28)

U-Boats reported Dromore Bay, Sligo Bay. Investigate and attack regardless of Territorial Waters. (C. in C., W.A., 1231/28 to GLOXINIA, WOLVES)

1050 — 265° 36° N., 8° W 10 miles, S/M nbearing 024° 10 miles course 200° (S.O. Force H. 1050 /28 to F.O.C.N.A.) S/M has dived (S.O. Force H. 1051/28) WISHART hunting. (S.O.Force H. 1115/28)

1619 — U-Boat on surface 54° 50' N., 21° 51' W., at 1619 (C. in C., W.A. 1649/28 to PICOTEE FANDANGO) (See EMPIRE OCELOT torpedoed) 54°50' N., 21° 51' W., S/M on surface. Ship report. (Lydd W/T N.C.S.O. 1629/28) HAVELOCK, PICOTEE attack (C. in C., W.A., 1819/28) Detach FANDANGO if in company to attack U-Boat in 54° 40' N., 21° 51' W., at 1619. Return yourself to Belfast (C. in C. W.A. 1823/28 to PICOTEE)

2250 G.M.T. — 54° 39' N.,24° 19' W., HAVELOCK, FANDANGO attack (C. in C., W.A. 0013/29)

1607 — Probably near Bergen By D/F

1635 — Position by D/F near Lister. (D.D.I.C.1800/28)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- No News.
German- 1 may reach Lorient tonight or tomorrow night.
1 may have been about 360' W of Valentia at 1250/27, possibly moving northwards.
1 may have been about 600' W. by N of Bloody Foreland at 0838/28)
2 or 3 in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown. Possible 1 reaching N.W. Approaches from the North.
(D.D.I.C+. 1233/28)

SECRET.

29.9.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

There were indications of enemy surface craft near the Lizard shortly after midnight 28/29. Later it was learnt that three vessels, thought to be enemy destroyers, approached A.P. vessel ROGER JULIETTE (not fitted with W/T) near Gull Rock and disappeared to the southward.

Enemy destroyer activity in Western Approaches. Surface craft were reported 35 miles S.S.E. of Plymouth at 1920 today. A report was received of two unknown destroyers off the Scilly Is. at 2009 and of flashes and an explosion east of the Manacles at 2037. EMERALD, GARLAND, BROKE, VELOX and BLYSKAWICA endeavoured unsuccessfully to intercept the enemy.

SAPPHO lost. A.P. Yacht SAPPHO which was in the area has failed to answer W/T. signals and is considered lost.

Destroyer reinforcement for W.A.Command. In view of enemy destroyer activity in the Western Approaches four destroyers from Nore Command are to join C. in C. W.A. temporarily and two V or W class destroyers from Portsmouth are to join C. in C. Nore.

17th D.F. The Town class destroyers of 17th D.F. are to be employed in the N.W. Approaches for the present.

Suspicious merchant ship. At 2115/29 trawler NORTHERN ISLE on Northern Patrol sighted and endeavoured to chase a fast westbound ship which refused to stop. LACHENTIC was ordered to intercept but failed.

British Air Activity.

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on the enemy's invasion bases from Havre to Antwerp. Other naval targets attacked were docks at Bremen and Wilhelmshaven, and shipping at Lorient, where 7 S/ms. are reported in harbour today.

One of our reconnaissance aircraft today unsuccessfully bombed an enemy ship picking up the crew of a Dornier in the northern part of the North Sea.

Enemy Air Activity.

Incendiary bombs were dropped near Milford Haven last night without causing damage.

Bombs fell in the Frater Mine depot area of Portsmouth at 0200/29, but no damage or casualties resulted.

S.S. ...

SECRET.

29.4.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT .

Enemy Air Activity (Cont.)

S.S.SCOTTISH MUSICIAN was gunned but was not damaged this morning 20 miles West of Bardsey.

WINCHESTER and Convoy FS.95 were attacked early this afternoon off the East Coast by an aircraft which made the correct identification signal by light. No ships were hit. The convoy was again unsuccessfully attacked later in the afternoon in the Thames Estuary.

VANITY and Convoy FN.92 were unsuccessfully attacked off Farne Is., this evening by a torpedo carrying aircraft with British markings.

The Waverley dock and harbour, Lowestoft was bombed this morning and damage was done to houses. Aberdeen was attacked this evening. There were no Naval damage or casualties.

Mining.

Considerable minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off North Foreland and in the Thames Estuary.

The Tyne was closed this morning for about 2 hours owing to mines off the entrance. Two mines were detonated.

Hartlepool and Tees were re-opened at 1630 today.

The Eastern entrance to Portsmouth was closed at 2313 owing to suspected enemy aircraft minelaying.

Dutch skoot ARIZONA (398 tons) was mined and sunk in the Firth of Forth this morning.

Mines were laid by R.A.F. off Lorient.

Operations against Vichy French.

Force M in BARHAM, with RESOLUTION, DEVONSHIRE, DELHI, INGLEFIELD, FAULKNOR, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, FURY, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD and QUANNET arrived at Freetown at 0700 today.

RENOWN and 4 destroyers, FIREDRAKE, ENCOUNTER, HOTSPUR and GALLANT, left Gibraltar at 0715 today to intercept RICHELIEU if she is proceeding to a Biscay port from Dakar. The departure of RENOWN was observed by EPEE and FRONDEUR which passed Gibraltar westward at high speed.

At 1326 RENOWN reported that she was being shadowed by a French aircraft.

Tangier ...

SECRET.

29.9.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Operations against Vichy French (Cont.)

The Consul General at Tangier has been asked to report immediately the arrival and departure of RICHELIEU or any other French warships at Casablanca. In view of recent attacks by French fighters close air patrol of Casablanca is impracticable and has been cancelled. Air reconnaissance by Coastal Command S.W. from Cape Finisterre today did not sight RICHELIEU.

At 1910 the Admiralty ordered RENOWN to abandon the search for RICHELIEU and proceed to the vicinity of the Azores, in case the French ships were proceeding to capture those islands.

French aircraft daily reconnoitre Bathurst harbour.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Reinforcements for Malta. WARSPITE, VALIANT and ILLUSTRIOUS left Alexandria today, with GLOUCESTER and LIVERPOOL carrying reinforcements and R.A.F. stores for Malta. A small Aegean convoy is sailing under cover of this operation.

F.A.A.attacks. Two Swordfish of F.A.A. detailed to attack shipping at Jezira el Marashsb, attacked a convoy of two vessels with destroyer escort. Direct hits were registered but results unobserved. To cover this action a Blenheim attacked the Jazale aerodrome.

Air Raid on Haifa. 10 unidentified aircraft today dropped bombs on Haifa, damaging a water tank, telephone wires and power cables. The A/C. of the French ~~Flyhxxx~~ Flight were unserviceable and did not take off.

East Indies.

One Blenheim today attacked quayside and warehouses at Assab. Results were not observed.

America and West Indies.

The 2nd Town Flotilla of 8 destroyers left Halifax today for the U.K.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Destroyer Reinforcement for Western Approaches

In view of the seven enemy Destroyers at Brest being active in the Western Channel and as NEWCASTLE is out of action propose t that DESPATCH should be put at my disposal. None of the first TOWNS foltilla will be fit to operate for some days and I now have only 3 effective Destroyers. (C. in C., W.A 1603/29 to Adty.)

1. In view of enemy destroyer activity in the Western Approaches it has been decided that as an immediate measure (A) JAGUAR, JAVELIN, and KIPLING are to join C. in C., W.A. (b) Two V. or W class destroyers from Portsmouth are to join C. in C., Nore.

2. C. in C., Nore is requested to arrange for not less than four destroyers from those at his disposal to be included in the force based on the Humber.

3. Destroyer passages should be arranged so as to take full advantage of the dark hours (1st S.L. 1753/29)

Admty. 1753/29. INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE are to be sailed for Humber at 1715/30 to arrive 0600/1/10. (C. in C., Nore, 2110/29 to D. 21)

Asking for fighter protection for KELVIN, JAVELIN, JAGUAR 0730/30-1930/30. Code word "Adapt" (C. in C., Nore, 2114/29)

Admty. 1753/29. KELVIN, JAVELIN, JAGUAR are to be sailed from Humber a.m./1/10 for Plymouth to pass South Goodwin Light Vessel at 1930 and arrive destination 0700/1) Further orders will be issued regarding KIPLING. (C. in C., Nore 2112/29)

Admty, 1753/29. Request destroyers may be sailed to Sheerness. (C. in C., Nore 2116/29 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

A.M. 1753/29. MACKAY and WITCH will be sailed p.m./30 as minelaying from aircraft is suspected to be taking place now. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2330/29)

/French.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy- Contd.

French Warships — If French warships are accompanied by enemy vessels they must be regarded as hostile (W.O. 1245/29 to C. in C., Home Forces)

Town Class — For the present the Town Class destroyers of the 17th D.F. should be employed in N.W. Approaches in spite of absence of asdics. ((D.O.D. (H) 1833/29)

Defence of U.K.

"DELUGE" — At 0200/29 (D.C. 0203/29) At 1400/29 (D.C. 1430/29)

Scapa — Progress reports (R.A. Scapa 2015/29)

Movements

Dover Patrols — Night 29/30. (V.A. Dover 1231/29)

VELOX — Asking for fighter protection. Code word "Major" (C. in C., W.A. 0043/29)

M.T.B's 28 & 24 — My 2137/28. Sailing postponed till weather moderates. (C. in C., Nore, 0951/29)

DESPATCH — Expect to arrive Nab Tower 0630/1/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1435/29) Asking for fighter protection 1700/29 until dusk and dawn 30/9 until arrival at Portsmouth, code word "Parts" (C. in C., W.A. 1641/29)

Northern Patrol — Trawler lines occupied tonight (A.C.O.S. 1536/29)

Operations

Enemy Surface Craft Near The Lizard — Indication enemy surface craft in vicinity Lizard Head. Proceed forthwith to investigate. QUORN may be in vicinity Lands End. (C. in C., W.A. 0013/29 to BLYSKAWICA, GARLAND)

If no further information at daylight abandon search and return to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 0031/29 to GARLAND, BLYSKAWICA)

/There is.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Contd.

There is indication of enemy boat activity in the vicinity of Lizard Head at 0045/29. (C. in C., W.A., 0059/29 to QUORN.)

Your 0013. Have hunted in vicinity for 7 hours. Fuel remaining 140 tons. H.M.S. FANDANGO not met. My position course and speed 054° 47' N., 024° 00' W., 075° 16 knots (HAVELOCK 0937/29)

At 0050/29 F.O.I.C. Falmouth reported that COVERACK had received strong enemy W/T messages impossible to get a bearing but seemingly near.
Following report from A.P. vessel ROGER JULIETTE who was patrolling was received at 0050/29 position 3 miles south of Gull Rock 3 ships approaching from south, appeared to be three destroyers and were challenged, no reply. They steered same course as me. I challenged again and still no reply. After 3 or 4 minutes all three vessels altered course a southerly direction (C. in C., W.A., 1659/29)

Operation M.W. Bombardment of Calais

Possibility of aircraft minelaying Edinburgh Channels and Ooze Deep. High Speed should be used by destroyers ahead of H.M.S. EREBUS (C. in C., Nore, 0447/29)

It is intended to carry out operation M.W. at the first favourable opportunity as regards weather. EREBUS sailing from Sheerness as laid down in Memo M.W. Para 5 (B) Weather conditions for oday are at present unsuitable. Further signal will be made at 1400 today and on subsequent days. EREBUS acknowledge. (V.A.Dover, 1037/29)

My 1037. Further signal will be made at 1600. (V.A.Dover 1402/29)

Carry out operation M.W.C. Zero hour 0130/30 EREBUS acknowledge. (V.A.Dover, 1523/29)

Request fighter protection for EREBUS, GARTH, VESPER 1730/29 until dusk. Code word. ALPHA. (C. in C., Nore, 1546/29)

EREBUS, GARTH and VESPER with Tug LADY BRASSEY route to No 2A Light Buoy arriving there by 0130/30. After operation M.W. they will return by same route passing South Goodwin L.V. about 0300/30. Dover Patrol is to act in support if required. (C. in C. Nore 1820/29 to Adty.) Asking for fighter protection daylight/30 until arrival at Sheerness. Code word "ALPHA" (C. in C., Nore 1646/29)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Destroyer Patrol

Tonight, WOLVERINE, SALADIN, BEAGLE, BRILLIANT to limit of Portsmouth Command and Southward to 50° 5' N., (C. in C., Portsmouth 1413/29 Asking for fighter protection (C. in C., Portsmouth 1314/29)

Search for Ships off Stadlandet

One Sunderland detailed as A/S air escort for each force arriving about 0700.
One section Blenheim fighters will be standing by at Sumburgh from 0700. (C. in C., Rosyth 0020/29)

My 1936/28. H.F. Forces are returning to Harbour. (V.A.(S) 1113/29)

R.A. (D) H.F. in REPULSE with BERWICK, SOMALI, ESKIMO, PUNJABI, DUNCAN expected time of arrival Scapa 2300/29.
2. REPULSE will transfer R.A. (D) H.F.,
3. Ships REPULSE, SOMALI, ESKIMO, PUNJABI will proceed to Rosyth without oiling 0130, expected time of arrival 1100/30.
(R.A.(D) H.F. 1655/29)

Enemy Destroyers Off Scillies

Enemy surface craft probably E-Boats 35 miles S.S.E. Plymouth at 1920. (C. in C., W.A., 2003/29)

St. Mary's Scilly Isles reports two destroyers nationality unidentified bearing 140° 14 miles course 80° at 1928.
(C. in C., W.A. 2009/29)

Also made by W/T GR 44 R/V 155 EDDYSTONE 8 at about 2200 EMERALD adjust time if necessary. Object to attack destroyers reported 140° St. Mary's 14 course 080 at 1928. (C. in C., .W.A., 2041/29 to EMERALD, GARLAND, BROKE, VELOX, BLYSKAWICA.)

Explosion and flash E.S.E. of Manacles at 2033. (C. in C., W.A. 2143/29)

Reference C. in C., W.A. 2041, R.V. 2240.
(EMERALD 2153/29 to BROKE, BLYSKAWICA, GARLAND, VELOX.)

Enemy destroyers will probably retire to Brest. Cut them off. (C. in C., W.A., 2239/29 to EMERAL, BROKE, BLYSKAWICA, GARLAND, VELOX)

You are to be inside fighter protection by 0630 30th September. (C. in C., W.A., 2241/29 to EMERALD, BROKE, BLYSKAWICA, GARLAND, VELOX.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Unknown Ship in Channel

Fast westbound ship burning light, will not stop, am endeavouring to keep in sight until daylight. My position course and speed 062° 02' N., 010° 42' W., 260° 11 knots. (NORTHERN ISLE 2115/29. to S.O.N.I.E. Trawlers)

Ship darkened or out of sight estimate her speed at least 16 knots course 260°. Request Instructions. (NORTHERN ISLE 2240/29)

Endeavour to intercept suspicious vessel reported by NORTHERN ISLES 062° 02' N., 010° 42' W., Course 260° at 2115 speed more than eleven knots. (P.O.C.N.P. 2244/29 to LAURENTIC)

Your 2115 and your 2240 ship may be Finnish AVRORA Petsamo to Curacao (corrupt groups) NORTHERN SPRAY 2330/29 to NORTHERN ISLE)

Patrol U.

Cancel Patrol U. tonight (C. in C., Nore, 1725/29)

Patrol BY.

Tonight (C. in C., W.A., 1559/29)

Submarines

Patrol Areas

From 0100/1/10. Area S. 3. is cancelled and Area D.4. is altered to between 50° 5' N and the French Coast and between 6° 25' W and 0° 25' E., (Capt (S) 5 0951/29)

L. 27
UTMOST

To leave patrol 0100/1/10 and R,V. with NORTHERN PRIDE, then to patrol in area D. 4 modified by my 0951/29. (Cpt. S. 5. 0958/29)

TIGRIS

Safe in 10 fathoms. (Capt S. 2. 1129/29 to TIGRIS)

STURGEON

Sailed for patrol (S. 6 1803/29)

H. 33.

Have met H. 33. Unexpectedly in North Channel steering 140° (Capt D. 12 2207/29)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

North Sea

At0845/29 one Dornier aircraft in sea. Have bombed ship picking up crew. Fighter circling position. (A/C 269 Squadron 0845/29) (F.O.S. 1003/29 to submarines) Six Skuas leaving to attack ship reported in 59° 35' N 3° E at 0845. (R.N.A.S. Hatston 1110/29 to A.C.O.S)

At 0820/29 aircraft attacked a M/V about 1800 tons in 59° 35' N., 3° E No hits observed, but believed near misses. (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle 1304/29)

Enemy Air Activity

Milford Haven

About 10 Incendiary bombs dropped near Haven at 2330/28.. No damage or casualties (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0954/29 to Adty.)

Portsmouth

3 H.E.Bombs fell in Frater Area at 0200. No damage or casualties. One possible unexploded in the open causes no inconvenience (C. in C., Portsmouth 1112/29) It is not considered that any U X B remains at Frater (C. in C., Portsmouth 1305/29) Slight damage at Frater Mine Depot. (S.C.E. Portsmouth 1850/30)

I.P. Building

Bombs found near are reported small and unlikely to damage Building. (I.P. 1115/29 to Adty.)

SCOTTISH MUSICIAN

Gunned, 20 miles West of Bardsey. (Lyness 1119/29) Cancel AAAA (SCOTTISH MUSICIAN 1028/29 to Lyness)

Lowestoft

Ref. CAFO 587/40. Lowestoft attacked at 1120 by aircraft. No damage or casualties (M.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1150/29 to Adty.)

Convoy BOOTY

One aircraft attacking convoy in 51° 54' N. 1° 39' E., 8 bombs. No hits. (WINCHESTER 1320 and 1324/29) Aircraft made correct identification letter by light. (VIVIEN 1324/29) Am still being shadowed (VIVIEN 1745/29) Position (VIVIEN 1758/29)

/Eastham Lock....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Eastham Lock — F.C. to consider provision of close A.A. defence (Air Min. 1456/29)

VANITY Attacked — Enemy aircraft British marking dropped torpedo missed 55° 45' N., 1° 42' W., (VANITY 1917/29, 1929/29)

Aberdeen — Attacked at 2146. No naval damage or casualties (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2309/29)

SS BULLMAT SS ULSTERTON — Damaged by fire in Brunswick Dock, Liverpool during air attack. 26/9 (D.S. 391)

Mining

Dutch Skoot ARIZONA 398 tons Blyth to Bridgewater via Methil was sunk at 0704/29 by explosion in position 204° Kinnaig Point 1 mile 3 survivors out of crew of 8. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1215/29, 0751/29, N.O.I.C. Methil 1229/29)

Operation H.N. 42 — Your 1159/27. (Sailing of convoy H.N. 42 from Port E.A. at 0640 30.9.40) Concur. (C. in C., W.A., 1643/29 to R.A.M.L.)

My 1643/29. On conclusion of H.N. 42 request you will sail VANSITTART to Liverpool for boiler cleaning and two other destroyers to Londonderry. The latter will be required to leave Londonderry a.m./3/10. to join escort of convoy W.S. 3. and will be away for about five days. (C. in C., W.A. 1647/29 to R.A.M.L.)

Tyne — 2 ground magnetic mines detonated 54° North Tyne Pier Light 2 cables 0915/29. (F.M.S.O. Tyne 0928/29) Tyne closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1146/29)

Portsmouth — Minelaying from enemy aircraft suspected to be taking place now. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2330/29) Eastern entrance closed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2312/29)

Hartlepool Tees — Ports open (N.O.I/c Hartlepool 1630/29)

/Unexplained.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Unexplained Explosion — Explosion and flash E.S.E. of Manacles (C. in C., W.A., 2143/29)

6 M/S Trawlers — Asking for fighter protection 0700/30-1700/30, near the Eddystone Code word, "GAMMA" (C. in C., W.A., 1747/29)

Enemy Intelligence

N.W.Approaches — Trawler AQUARIUS of Grimsby reports sighting suspicious object and hearing motor in a position 057° 45' 30" N., 005° 53' 30" W., at 0400/29. Intend to carry out search with VANGUARD and arrive 2000. (WHITEHALL 1349/29)

Finnish Ships — S.S. CAROLUS which arrived 28/9 after detention at Tromso reports that he was circled by 2 German aircraft about 50 miles from long 70° 5' and boarded by armed trawler about 18 miles out which placed an armed guard on board and took her to Tromso. Finnish steamer KARTEHOLM (Swede) and EUTER THORDEN are still there PANDIA has been taken south Master succeeded in destroying all confidential documents before being boarded. He was given no instructionss regarding minefield on his release. (Petsamo 1825/29)

Lorient — Air R.C. 7 U-Boats (P.R.U. 1500/29)

Havre — Air R.C. (P.I.U. 1738/29)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DALEBY — My 1035/25 DALEBY not arrived Durban 28/9 (S.O. (1) Capetown 1105B/29)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
H.X. 74	Orders to escort. Route. (C. in C., W.A. 0420/29)
F.N. 92	Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne in F.N. 92 to remain outside. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0958/29)
O.A. 222) W.N. 19)	Escorts to transfer when convoys pass. (C. in C., Rosyth 1011/29) CURACOA to escort O.A. 222 to Pentland Firth. (C.S. 10 1926/29)
O.B. 221	Sailed 1000/29. Escort. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1126/29) List (1127/29)
F.S. 95	To leave Methil 1800/29. (C. in C., Rosyth 1509/29)
O.A. 220	To alter course. (C. in C., W.A., 1550/29)
O.A. 221	Position (A.C.O.S., 1827/29)
O.L. 5	To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 1600/29) Sailed (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 0146/29)
W.S. 3.	Escort. (C. in C., W.A., 1657/29)
S.C. 2.	SCARBOROUGH arrived from escort. (S.O.I. Halifax 1815/29)
H.X. 73	ASCANIA arrived for ocean escort. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1815/29)
S.L. 47 A-) P.A. 221)	Estimated meet about 2100/29 lat. Cape Wrath. (C. in C., W.A., 1820/29) CURACOA to provide A/A escort until R.V. O.A.222 (C.S. 10,1926/29)

Mobile Balloon Barrage

Admty. 2031/28. In view of Admty. 1828/26 consider mobile balloon barrage requirements during forthcoming winter should be (A) Eight vessels to accompany each convoy. Other considerations. (C. in C., Nore, 2144/29.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

RENOWN. To sail with destroyer screen at 0900 or on completion of fuelling. (1st S.L.0110/29)

Force H., RICHELIEU. Admiralty 0253/29 and your 1715/28. To patrol to intercept RICHELIEU if she is proceeding to a Biscay port from Dakar. If intercepted, report and shadow but take no other action without instructions. (1 S.L. to S.O., Force H, 0122/29).

Your 0122/29 RENOWN and four destroyers sail 0700/29. Intend proceeding to St. Vincent and if air reconnaissance off Casablanca today is negative to continue patrol concentrating Finisterre. Request air reconnaissance to west and south west of Finisterre p.m./29 and on 30/9 and 1/10. Destroyers unable to remain at Finisterre more than about one day. (S.O., Force H, 0635/29).

French Destroyers. My 0635. Departure RENOWN observed by 2 French destroyers proceeding westwards at high speed. (S.O., Force H 0740/29). Gibraltar departure 0715/29 S.O., Force H in RENOWN, FIREDRAKE, ENCOUNTER, HOTSPUR, GALLANT, in accordance Admiralty 0122/29. (S.O.(I), Gib., 0928/29). Gibraltar 0735/29, French destroyers KPEE and FRONDEUR passed east to west. (S.O.(I), Gibraltar, 0931/29).

"Alloy" and "Shrapnel". Stowage. Your 1937/27. Advantage of having a quay for restowing ship for "Alloy" and "Shrapnel" recognised, but facilities at Takoradi are already fully occupied and it is not desired to bring Force A back to Gibraltar or U.K. at present. If possible to restow ships at Freetown using lighters this must be done and should proceed with all despatch. (1 S.L. 0051/29 to C.in C., S.A.).

Force M. Arrival 0700/29 F.O., Force M, in BARHAM, RESOLUTION, DEVONSHIRE, DELHI, INGLEFIELD, FAULKNOR, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, FURY, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, ADV.QUARANT; 0800 Hospital Ship SOMERSETSHIRE. (S.O.(I), Freetown, 0801/29).

Cameroons. Attitude to Vichy ships & Submarines. Admiralty 1912/26 and 2033/28/8. I read these as authorisation (a) to use threat of force to Vichy surface ships approaching Cameroons River and to open fire if they persist, (b) to sink any submarine on sight. If this does not accord with policy request I may be informed. (CORNWALL, 1030Z/29).

French Air Activity. Situation Report for D.M.I. French aircraft daily reconnoitre aerodrome barracks

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

French Air Activity. (contd.)

and Bathurst Harbour. Unconfirmed report believed to be reliable that Wallinggara Aerodrome near Gambia frontier being cleared. Unidentified aircraft over Freetown 27/9, engaged by naval A/A. Unconfirmed report that Europeans and natives are being called up at Libreville. (C.O.C.,W.Africa,0210/29).

Cameroons. Attitude to Vichy Ships & Submarines.

Your 1030/29: (a) I agree. Vichy French warships if met at sea should be prevented from going to any French West African port, following similar procedure to that directed in my 2117/15, being instructed to return to Casablanca or to Dakar, force being used if necessary. If French ships agree that they should be shadowed until further orders are received: (b) Submarines are to be treated as hostile and sunk at sight if approaching Cameroons River and inside Free French territorial waters. If met at sea they are to be treated as hostile unless on the surface and escorted, see second sentence of paragraph two of Admty.2033/28/8. (C.in C.,S.A., 1725N/29, to CORNWALL).

RICHELIEU.

Consul-General Tangier asked to report immediately any information he can get concerning possible presence of French Battleship RICHELIEU at Casablanca and also arrival and departure of other French men-of-war. (F.O.C.N.A.1032/29 to Force H.)

ARK ROYAL AUSTRALIA ARGUS.

Admty.2256/26. ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA sailed Freetown 0615/30. Route. Thence to R.V. with ARGUS and A/S screen (date). Onward route as in C.in C.W.A.2007/25. (C.in C.,S.A., 1047N/29).
Your 1047. ARK ROYAL is to carry out an air reconnaissance of Dakar to establish whether RICHELIEU in particular has sailed. (D.O.D.(P) to C.in C.,S.A.,0011/30).
Admty.2256/26. ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA are being sailed for U.K.0600/30 on assumption not required for any further operation with Force M although no decision on further operation or movement of De Gaulle Force yet received. (C.in C.,S.A.,1413N/29).

Takoradi.

Do not consider secrecy will be prejudiced and recommend entire force sent to Takoradi. Freetown repeat Maj.Gen.Irwin. (C.in C., West Africa, Accra, to W.O.,1130/29).

Casablanca, Patrol Area.

In view of recent attacks by French Fighters involving the loss of one London aircraft close observation of Casablanca impracticable. If patrol is discovered off Casablanca it will most probably be driven off. Intend therefore to maintain patrol during daylight hours from 1330/29 over area enclosed by

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Casablanca, Patrol Area. (contd.)

lines joining following positions: X, 035°20'N, 008°50'W. Y, 034°10'N, 007°42' W. Z, 033°40'N. 008°48'W. (F.O.C.N.A.,1202/29, to Force H).

Force H. Shadowed by Aircraft.

Am shadowed by one French aircraft. My position course and speed, 35°44'N, 07°18'W, 260°, 18 knots. (S.O.,Force H, 1326/29).

TOUAREG.

French ship TOUAREG left Pointe Noire on 31/8 with deported minor Vichy officials, De Larminat asking that she be allowed free passage to Dakar but no guarantee given. She arrived Duala on 12/9 where a further number of senior pro-Vichy officials deportees were embarked. She was intercepted at sea by DELHI on 16/9 and sent into Takoradi, where in view of pending operations against Dakar she was detained at my request. General De Gaulle on being consulted asked that she should be detained until operations at Dakar were over. Ship has on board general cargo for Dakar including considerable amount of timber. Evacuees consist of 114 men, 24 women and 17 children. General de Gaulle now asks that crew and deportees be evacuated over frontier of French Ivory Coast and ship retained by him for use of Free French. Propose this shall be approved if Governor Gold Coast can arrange for transfer of personnel. (C.in C.,S.A.1427/29 to Admiralty).

De Gaulle Plans.

From M.A. My 1133/26. De Gaulle interviewed. Konakri project abandoned. He desires to go to Duala now with his force and to have his aircraft in operating condition in Cameroons as soon as possible. Concur with C.in C.,S.A's last para. of 1831/28. Feasibility of disembarkation and erection of aircraft at Duala being urgently examined together with relative advantage of Takoradi.
Escort required for De Gaulle's force will materially affect naval force available for transporting and disembarkation. (F.O.,Force M, 1646/29)
Last paragraph of your 1646/29 regarding escort required for De Gaulle's force requires amplification. (1 S.L.2236/29 to Force M).

French Movements.

Gibraltar 29/9, 1620. French armed trawlers ISERGENT, GOUARNE, escorting French SAREL and S.JOSE eastward through Straits. 1750. SAREL, GOUARNE returning westward. (S.O.(I),Gibraltar 1755/29).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French (contd.)

Dakar. F.O.C.N.A.1822/28. Vessels mentioned were identified by photographic reconnaissance at 1015/28 as being still at Dakar. (F.O.,Force H, 1807/29).

Casablanca. 2 afternoon reconnaissances negative. Bad weather. 2 destroyers or sloops approaching Casablanca from north 1705, possibly those mentioned in S.O.,Force H, 0740/29).

Aircraft Patrols off Casablanca. In view of Admiralty 1910/29, aircraft patrols referred to in my 1202/29/9 have been cancelled. (F.O.C.N.A.2225/29).

Army Troops & Stores. From Irwin to General, Sierra Leone. Request liner with 8 A. and S.H. may also contain ancillary troops originally allocated objective A.3 complete with stores, etc. (O.C.Troops, Sierra Leone, to W.O. 1245/29).

Damage to H.M.Ships. During operations at Dakar - BARHAM, AUSTRALIA, DRAGON, INGLEFIELD, FORESIGHT. (S.O.,Force H, 2137N/29).

Air Reconnaissance. Your 0635/29. (a) Air reconnaissance extending fifty miles West South West of Finisterre is being arranged for p.m.to-day Sunday. (b) Your para.2. It was intended that RENOWN and destroyers would patrol to the westward of Gibraltar roughly between 10°W. and 15°W.

RICHELIEU. Search to be Abandoned. RENOWN to proceed to Azores. (c) In view of Admty.1633/29 and 1835/29 search for RICHELIEU is to be abandoned and RENOWN is to proceed to vicinity of Azores Islands in case vessels mentioned are proceeding to capture those islands. Further signal as to probable landing places in Azores follows.
(d) No submarines have been reported in Azores area since 14/9 but it is probable that there is one to eastward of Azores.
(e) Report your views as to practicability of oiling destroyers at sea and period for which patrol could be maintained. No political objection to ships being sighted occasionally in Azores. (1 S.L., 1910/29 to Force H.) My 1910/29. If RICHELIEU is met on passage to the Azores she should be shadowed. (V.C.N.S.2340/29).

De Gaulle. Information now received indicates De Gaulle has given up his project for landing at Konakri and is prepared proceed Duala assert his authority there whence he will take Gabon and Libreville. Future movements of De Gaulle under discussion by Cabinet tomorrow. Will keep you informed. (W.O.2030/29 to G.O.C.,W.Africa).

MOST SECRET.

29.9.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DALEBY. My 1035/25. DALEBY overdue, not arrived Durban 28/9. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1105Z/29)

Mediterranean.

Operation B.S. My 1901/24. Amending route. (Capt.S.I. 1703/29).

ROKQUAL Route. (Capt.S.I.,0121/29). To patrol off Benghazi. (C.in C.Med.220 /29)

TRIAD, PERSEUS } To arrive Malta(date). (N.O.I.C.Malta,1051/29)

German Policy. Danube and Balkans. (N.A.Belgrade 1825/29)

Dodecanese, Shipping. Your 1333/27, refusal to give ships clearance calling at Dodecanese, has crossed Asfar No. 79 which gives the policy decided on. (D.E.W.D. to C.in C.Med., 1410/29)

WATERHEN With Convoy LN 17 from Alexandria. (C.in C. Med.2202/29).

RAMILLIES Exercises with destroyers night of 30-31/9 postponed. (C.in C.Med.,2202/29)

Air Reconnaissance. Malta Air Report from 1800/28 to 1800/29. All times local. Result of photographic R.C. of Taranto harbour:- Outer harbour 2 battleships, 3 8-inch cruisers, 2 6-inch cruisers, 8 destroyers, one floating dock. No ships at steam up. Inner harbour 5 6-inch cruisers, 21 destroyers, 3 leaders, 4 or 5 small war vessels possibly M.T.B's. Approximately 50 flying boats or floatplanes. 1 inaccurate shot by A.A. 1 old destroyer seen near South Sicily, one destroyer, 5 large and 2 small merchant vessels seen entering Gallipoli. 29/9. 4 aircraft repeated R.C. covering same area as mentioned in my report of 28/9(T.O.O. 1650/28) for enemy surface forces or convoys; nothing to report. No air enemy activity over Malta today. (A.H.Q.Med.,1720/29).
by STUART

S/M GONDAR. Attacked from 2215/29/ and sunk. (see 30/9)

Haifa Raid. 1124 hours. 10 unidentified enemy aircraft attacked Haifa from 1900 feet. Estimated 80 bombs dropped of which 46 fell on waste ground and cemetery damaging water tank and telephone wires while several fell in sea. Power lines supplying 236 T.R.U. damaged. Casualties 10 civilians slightly injured. A.A. fire from ships and land batteries. No hits. Fighters, No.1 French Fighter Flight unserviceable, did not take off. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E.1057/30)

MOST SECRET.

29.9.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A.P.3. — Request intentions for escorting A.P.3 through Red Sea and onward passage of CLAN CAMPBELL from Durban. Early arrival no less important than that of A.P.1 and A.P.2. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.E.I., 0023/29).
CARTHAGE to escort from Durban to about longitude of Aden, where Red Sea Escort will take over. Route. (C.in C.E.I. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 08127/29)

U.S.5. — Admty 1734/19. As escort for US 5 A direct from Colombo to Aden is not available intend that convoy shall proceed Bombay to join BN 8 (date). Escort will be provided from vicinity of Colombo to Bombay by CALEDON, CANBERRA on relief proceeding Colombo in readiness US 6. Request time and place of rendezvous for CALEDON with US 5. (C.in C.E.I., 0814/29 to A.C.N.B.)

COVENTRY — Cancel my 1228/8 (COVENTRY attached to Red Sea Force). (C.in C., E.I., 08002/29)

China.

SWANTENHONDT — Dutch. My 0223/27. Speed 11 knots, speed of return K.17, 10 knots. (C.in C.China, 02592/29)

D.F. — Admty 2020/26. Observationson this fix. Possible transmission was from WESER at time intercepted by PRINCE ROBERT. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 15002/29).

America and West Indies.

2nd Town Flotilla. — Left 29/9. KALK, MADDOX, FOOTE, HOPEWELL, ABBOTT, THOMAS, COWELL and DORAN. (S.O.(I) Halifax 1815/29). Route (F.O.3 B.S.1449/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.9.40.
SUNDAY.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

REGENSBURG. Left Yokohama p.m./27 in great hurry leaving bills unsigned. Only fresh vegetables etc., sufficient for 4 or 5 days on board. (Capt.O.S., Singapore, 02362/29, 1151/29).

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. A t Las Palmas, has rigged a crow's nest on foremast. (S.O.(I), Gib.,1034/29)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GOBEO	Arrived 29/9. (Barma, 1135/29)				
FRANCA FASSIO	Left 26/9 for Genoa. (Barma 1135/29)				
CIUDAD DE VALENCIA	Left 26/9 for Las Palmas (Barma, 1135/29)				
DIANA	Arrived Fiume	20/9.	Left Fiume	27/9.	(Susak 2000/29)
FANNY ERUNNER	"	" 23/9	"	" 28/9.	(Susak 2000/29)
CAPACITAS	"	" 26/9	Susak 2000/29)		
ALBANO	"	" 26/9	"	"	
TAMPICO	"	" 26/9	"	"	
CAGLIARI	Left Fiume	21/9	"	"	
IRIS	"	" 26/9	"	"	

NICOLO ODERO (Captured by French on Italy entering the war, now apparently released to her owners). Left Fiume 27/9. (Susak, 2000/29)

MOST SECRET.

29. 9. 1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ASHANTIAN (torpedoed 26/9) — GLOXINIA to escort in company with WOLVES to Belfast, keeping good lookout for STRATFORD. 9C.in C.W.A., 0039/29). T ug SEAMAN to assist SUPERMAN towing ASHANTIAN, position 55°08'N, 08°34'W at 1200/29, bound for Clyde. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1000/29). WOLVES arrived with 15 survivors 2132. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 2211/29)

INVERSHANNON (torpedoed 20/9) — 15 survivors landed Belfast today. Vessel torpedoed at 2340/20. S/M proceeded alongside at 0800/21 and placed 2 time bombs on board which exploded at 1000/21. 2 lifeboats containing 33 of crew, last seen at dark 22/9, still adrift. (F.O.I.C., Belfast, 1300/29).

Submarines Reported.

0554 — Sighted by JULIANA 56°03'N, 2°15'W. (Lyness 0456/29 (?GMT), Wick Radio 0657/29)

1242 — U-Boat sighted 46°38'N, 10°W, course E, 8 knots. (F.O.(S), 1329/29)

1952 — S/M appears to be shadowing you. (C.in C. W.A., to WELLINGTON for Commodore, 2027/29). Position of U/B at 1952, 54°40'N, 13°00'W. (C.in C.W.A., to WELLINGTON, 2040/29).

1019 — D.F. of U/B at 1019/29, 40 miles west of Lorient probably homeward bound. (F.O.(S), 1126/29).

0830 — S/M reported on surface by A/C, 55°08'N, 09°48'W. (C.in C.W.A.0917/29).
My 0917. Amended position from A/C, 55°58'N, 09°30'W. (C.in C.W.A., 1143/29)

0820 — S/M surfaced heading 270 then submerged, 58°27'N, 2°40'W., 0820, escort investigating. (A/C 612 Sqdn., 0935/29).

9322 — About 57°N, 15° to 19°W, position indefinite. (D.S.391)

1245 — Reported by civil A/C. 52°57'N, 4°48'W. (B.4) (D.S.391)

Estimated U/B Dispositions. — Italian - 1 in 35° 55'N. 8°15'W. at 1050/28. German - 1 approaching Lorient. 1 was in 54°55'N 22°06'W. at 1521/28. 1 was in about 58°N 20°W. at 0038/29. 3 or 4 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in 55°08'N. 9°48'W at 0830/29. 1 may have been about 250'W of Bloody Foreland at 1317/28 whereabouts of others unknown. 1 in Moray Firth. (D.D.I.C.1328/29)

MOST SECRET.

29.9.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacks.

0822	By A/C, 56°08'N, 9°40'W, 4 250-lbs. bombs/dropped, no hits, salvo 30 yds. abeam, damage unknown. U-boat crash diving. (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth, no T.O.O./29)
1215	By A/C, 58°37'N, 16°53'W. 1 D/C dropped on suspected U/B. Nil result. (H.Q.C.C. 2359/29).
1340	By A/S Trawler LADY LILIAN. 54°45'N, 11°08'W., attacked contact (B.1) (D.S.391)

Secret

30.9.40
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer reinforcement of Northern Approaches.

Further reinforcements of destroyers are to be sent to the Western Approaches Command as it is apparent that of the 18 large German destroyers remaining, not more than 5 or 6 are East of Calais, the remainder being in the French Atlantic ports.

Three destroyers of the 5th D.F. are to be sailed from Rosyth to Plymouth and a fourth is to follow when ready for service. Three B class destroyers from the 1st D.F. at Portsmouth are to join C.in C. Home Fleet. INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE sailed from Sheerness today for Humber to replace KELVIN, JAVELIN and JAGUAR who left the Humber at 0800 to-day and are being transferred temporarily to the Western Approaches Command. KIPLING is to join W.A. later when slight collision damage has been made good. MACKAY and WITCH left Portsmouth 1912/30 to join the Nore Command at Sheerness, carrying out a patrol on the way with BULLDOG and HARDY IX.

Operation HAILAI. HUNDUS last night bombarded Calais, accompanied by GARTH and VESPER. Air spotting was unsatisfactory and the operation was terminated after 17 rounds had been fired, only 3 of which were observed. HUNDUS was fired at by a German coast battery when returning round South Goodwin Lt. V., but no ships were hit.

Dover shelled. Dover was shelled from batteries at Wissant this morning. There were no Naval casualties.

British Air Activity

The greater part of Bomber Command effort last night was directed against military targets in Germany. Only 20 aircraft were ordered to bomb invasion ports. 6 Blenheims detailed to attack shipping at Lorient obtain direct hits on the target area.

Secret

30.9.40
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Warehouses were set on fire at the docks in Liverpool last night.

MALLARD was hit and seriously damaged in the Thames Approaches this morning.
S.S. BARON VERNON was bombed this morning in the Atlantic about 300 miles West of Ireland.

S.S. SUSSEX was bombed and machine-gunned at 0735 today in the Atlantic about 250 miles West of Ireland. Her fires are under control but her navigational instruments are unreliable. She is proceeding at 6 knots. Convoy SL.47/ was bombed off Buchan-ness this evening. S.S. EMPIRE SUCCESS was damaged and entered Aberdeen.

VERNON'S workshop was damaged at Horsea Island in a raid this evening.

Fishing trawler MANIWA was unsuccessfully attacked this evening in the Bristol Channel.

Mining

Two out of 5 Beauforts detailed to lay mines in the Jade and Weser completed their task. Two further Beauforts laid mines at Lorient.

Enemy seaplanes, presumed to be minelaying with fighters in attendance were active this morning 20 to 25 miles eastward of Beachy Head.

Secret

30.9.40
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations against Vichy French

ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA left Freetown 0615 today for the U.K. ARK ROYAL has been ordered to carry out a reconnaissance of Dakar.

RESOLUTION was transferred to the administration of C. in C., South Atlantic as from today.

Mediterranean

Italian battle fleet at sea. An Italian battle fleet was reported at sea at 0950 GMT today, some 150 miles E. by S. of the Straits of Messina, steering 340° at 15 knots. At 1130 a fleet of 4 or 5 battleships and 11 cruisers, with many destroyers was located 110 miles N.N.W. of the C. in C. Mediterranean's force steering for Taranto at 22 knots. The enemy were too far off to be intercepted. At 1337 GMT a force of 2 battleships, 3 cruisers and a large number of destroyers was reported about 70 miles to the northward of the force reported at 0950 GMT, steering 235° at 20 knots.

Italian S/M sunk STUART last night attacked an Italian submarine, believed to be of the GONDAR class off the coast of Egypt. The damage sustained forced the submarine to the surface where it was bombed by a flying boat. The crew abandoned the submarine, which sank.

Hit on Portsmouth. 6 Blenheims today attacked Portsmouth harbour. Large fires were started. One ship believed hit.

East Indies.

Bombs were dropped today on the jetty and military quarters at Berbera.

One 579 attacked Aden today, causing no damage or casualties.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals (D.C. 0201/30) (D.C. 1406/30)

CARDIFF — Intend to carry out boiler cleaning. She will be at 4 hours notice for 22 knots. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1543/30 to Adty.)

Portland Dockyard — Defence of Dockyard puts unfair strain on Naval personnel, resources, and training classes, and surely should be an Army commitment. Request take matter up urgently with War Office. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1607/30 to Adty.)

Readiness — VOLCANO and DELUGE signals indicate possibility of attack. C's in C. should adjust degrees of readiness of their forces so that rest and recreation are possible for all concerned. (V.C.N.S. 1723/30)

VOLCANO Signals — In view of possible use by Enemy of large scale smoke screens to cover a combined invading Operation, a special forecast will be issued at 1000 and 1800 B.S.T. every day of the suitability or otherwise of meterological conditions for such an operation. Particulars of Code to be used. (D. O.D., 1724/30)

Policy

MERISSA — Approved to be turned over to be manned by Polish Navy and incorporated in Polish Naval Detachment. (Head of M., 1652/30 to C. in C., .W.A.)

Destroyer Refits — Desirable that the normal refit programme should commence again at an early date unless it can be assumed either (a) That invasion is coming within next 10 days or or that invasion threat will not be with us indefintely for months. (C. in C., Nore, 1944/30)

Redistribution of Destroyers — It is apparent that of the twelve large German Destroyers remaining, not more than five or six are East of Calais, the remainder being in the French Atlantic ports:- 2. Three destroyers of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla are to be sailed to reinforce C. in C., W.A. now and JERSEY is to follow when ready for service.

/3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Redistribution of Destroyers-Contd.

3. Three B class destroyers from 1st Destroyer Flotilla are to join C. in C., Home Fleet.
4. The above redistribution is to take plac as soon as possible. Captain D. 5. is to join his flotilla at Plymouth.
(1st S.L. 2335/30 to C's in C.)

Movements

REPULSE — Adty's 1328/29 reporting U-Boat in Moray Firth and A.C.O.S. 1531/29 and C. in C., Rosyth 1924/29, intend to avoid normal Route during dark hours and pass through following positions. Request Fighter protection from 0630 when expect to be off Buchan Ness. (REPULSE 0001/30 to C. in C., Rosyth)

JAVELIN, KELVIN, JAGUAR — Departed Humber 0800/30, expect arrive South Goodwin L.V. 1930/30, and at 50° 5' N 4° 10' 40" W., at 0700/1. (F.O.Humber 0825/30 to Adty.)

PICOTEE — Sailed 0827. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0827/30)

6 M.V's — Detail 20th Group A/S Trawlers to escort, Dartmouth to Portland tonight. Escort to return night of 1/2. (C. in C., W.A., 1101/30)to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

Dover — Patrols for night 30/1. (V.A.Dover 1122/30)

DESPATCH — To be at disposal of C. in C., W.A. until defects of NEWCASTLE made good. (V.C.N.S. 1340/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

ADVENTURE — Intend to sail 0700/1 for Scapa. (C. in C., W.A. 1445/30 and 2215/30)

Humber Area — Movements for night 30/1. (N.O.I.C. 1450/30)

Portsmouth — Movements for night 30/1. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1513/30)

Orkneys — Movements for night 30/1, (A.C.O.S. 1531/30) Trawler Lines for night 30/1 (A.C.O.S. 1536/30)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Suspicious Vessel off Faroe Islands

Endeavour to intercept Suspicious Vessel reported by NORTHERNISLES at 2115/29 in 62° 2' N., 10° 42' W., steering 260° at more than 11 knots. (F.O.C.N.P. 0015/30 to LAURENTIC) My 2244/29. Resume Patrol (F.O.C.N.P. 1222/30 to LAURENTIC)

Dover Shelled

About 17 shells from Wissant fell in Dover Area between 1125 and 1150 to-day. 6 fell in Harbour, 5 in town, and 6 in sea. Civilian casualties 1 killed, 7 injured, No Naval casualties reported. (V.A.Dover, 1401/30 to Adty.)

EREBUS (Operation H.W.C)

Times and positions for construction of Track chart of your movements to be signalled to Adty. as soon as possible. (C. in C., Nore 1229/30 to EREBUS) Time and positions from leaving Sheerness 1700/29 by Mouse Light Vessel, South Edinburgh Channel, and Castletown Light Vessel to return Sheerness at 0915/30. At 2 A Buoy from 0045 to 0210/30. (EREBUS 1440/30 to Adty.) EREBUS in position at 0130, but delayed opeaeing fire till 0145 waiting for spotting aircraft. Spotting unsatisfactory and operation terminated after 17 rounds fired, of which only 3 observed all in Target area. Enemy coast battery fired about 8 rounds at EREBUS while returning off South Goodwin Light Vessel. No hits or damage to EREBUS or destroyers. (V.A.Dover 1831/30 to Adty.)

Patrol T

Tonight to proceed along 52° 10' N., till n near Dutch coast, then sweep North Eastwards to latitude of Ijmuiden, thence return by Gap E. crossing 2° 30' E., not later than 0545/1 (C. in C., Nore, 1248/30 to D. 16)

Patrol J.C. East

4 Destroyers leave Gate 1900/30 and proceed by QZS 111 and Eastern Swept Channel 2 will be in 50° 35' N., 0° 27' W., at daylight 1/10 and proceed to Portsmouth; 2 at South Goodwin Light Vessel at dawn 1/10 and proceed to Sheerness. Request Cover. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1501/30 to H.Q.F.C.) Intend sail MACKAY and WITCH with BULLDOG and SARDONYX at 1900/30 for Patrol J.C. East, Eastwardto Lydd Light Vessel and Southward to 50° 5' N., MACKAY and WITCH to arrive South Goodwin Light Vessel at Dawn and thence to Sheerness with despatch. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1547/30 and 2210/30 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Enemy Destroyers off Hanneles SAPPHO considered Lost

Return to Plymouth on completion of operation (C. in C., W.A. 0153/30 to EMERALD, BROKE, BLYSCAWICA, GARLAND, and VELOX) Since flashes and loud explosions reported at 2033/29 no contact has been made with SAPPHO. Further search being made by motor boat, but fear she must be considerered lost. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1004/30 to Adty.) DESPATCH proceed West of Scilly Islands to Plymouth arriving outer end of Q.Z.S. 100 at 0730/1. EMERALDand Destroyers between Lizard and Brest are due Plymouth 0800/1. 3 M.A/S.B's patrolling Dodman to Encarrow Point. Object for you and EMERALD's Force is to destroy any enemy force including M/V's (C. in C., W.A.,1653/30 to EMERALD)

Operation off Stadlandet

From position North of Fidra ZULU and ELECTRA are to be sent into Harbour at high speed as anti-mine precaution, and DUNCAN to be detached to augment Escort of O.A. 222. (C. in C., H.F. 0935/30 to REPULSE)

Brown Ridge Patrol

Will sweep towards Ymuiden to-night (V.A.S. 1534/30 to S/M H. 49)

Submarines

UPRIGHT

Expect arrive Needles 0900. (UPRIGHT 0757/30 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

SUNFISH

Passes May Island 2000/30 whence, diving by day, to patrol hear 58° 10' N., 4° 40' E., Route. (Capt S. 3. 1401/30 to STURGEON)

TAKU

Requires re-wiping at first convenient opportunity. (D.G.R.O. Clyde, 1445/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

TUNA
TRIBUNE

Request be sent to Milford Haven on return from Patrol, and not to Falmouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1719/30 to V.A.S.)

TUNA

Report of A/S Trawlers sighted p.m./23rd and possible E-Boat dawn/25th. at position in my 2130/23. Arriving 1000/1 (TUNA 2114/30 to V.A.S)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/1. (V.A.S. 1812/30)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30/9/1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Air Reconnaissance — 15 group undertake R.C. at dusk of area bounded by Scillies-Start-Guernsey-Ilen-Ushant to find and report probable enemy destroyers of E-Boats (H.Q.C.C. 1445/30)

Ford — R.N.Station Ford transferred today to R.A.F. Commands. (Ford 1930/30)

Enemy Air Activity

MALLARD PINTAIL — Bombed in approx. position 53 buoy at 0705 MALLARD hit (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0738/30) Condition MALLARD serious Request fighter escort. Enemy aircraft reported maintaining contact. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0803/30) Proceed to Sheerness with MALLARD taking your orders from C. in C., More on arrival. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1217/30 to PINTAIL) Tug KENIA sailed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1707/30)

SS BARON VERNON — Bombed in 52° 51' ' N., 18° 13'W (Valentia Radio 0821/30)

SS SUSSEX — Bombed and machine gunned by 4 enemy aircraft 53° 0' N., 17°48'W 0755. All fires now under control proceeding 066° 6 knots require escort. Minor casualties (SUSSEX 1005/30) SUSSEX 053° 25' 16° 19' navigational instruments unreliable (FO.I.C. Greenock 1218/30) Amended noon position 54° 20' 15° 32' approx. Course and speed 076° 16 knots other vessels near at time of bombing may have been attacked (C.U.C.M. (ship unknown) 1347/30) Endeavour to intercept SUSSEX and escort to Clyde. (A.C.W.A. 1431/1 to SCIMITAR)

Deptford — Slight bomb damage night 28/9 to D.E.M.S. training Centre (O.I.C., Works, R.V.Y. Deptford 1655/30)

Convoy LUCCA H.L. 47 — Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy LUCCA 57° 24' N., 1° 35' W., (CURACOA 2015/30)

Portsmouth — Damage at Horsea Island at 2115 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2255/30)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Unexplained Explosion

My 1413/29. (See Operations) WOLVERINE reports an explosion was heard close to ship at 2030/29 in 50° 31' N., 0° 35' W., Nothing seen. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1307/30)

Portsmouth

Port of Portsmouth Eastern Entrance is open to all ships (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1604/30)

Acoustic Mines

Precaution to be taken with main units of Fleet (C. in C., H.F., 1737/30)

2 M/S Trawlers "GAMMA"

Requesting fighter protection (C. in C., W.A. 1747/30)

Anti-Mine Precautions

As an anti-mine precaution when main units of the Fleet accompanied by destroyers are approaching or leaving port in water under 20 fathoms, some destroyers should precede the main units at high speed in line ahead 3 cables apart from or to the position where the A/S screen becomes necessary. (C. in C., H.F., 1737/30 to H.F)

A/C mining off Beachy Head

Following from Beachy Head. Enemy sea planes with fighters in attendance active between bearings 140° and 200° Beachy Head 20 to 25 miles approx. Presumed to be mine laying. Height of planes above surface of sea 50 to 200 feet visibility 30 miles. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1155/30)

Following received from Beachy Head:-
1 seaplane accompanied by 2 Messerschmidt fighters observed operating between 140° and 180° Beachy Head 20 miles. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1649/30)

Scottish Coastal Command

It is intended that eventually the coastal channel round Scotland shall be searched for mines by sweepers ahead of the convoys. C. in C., Rosyth arrange for ships of the 5th M/S F to practice this form of sweep with convoys between Rosyth and Pentland Firth. If 4 sweepers accompany a convoy, it seems probable that every other convoy could be swept. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2135/30)

MOST SECRET

30.9.1940
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

North Sea — At 1022 in 53° 45' N., 5° 40' E a convoy of 10 M/Vs of which 9 about 1000 tons, one about 4000 tons steering West at 8 to 10 knots. (Chatham 1315/30 and 1440/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

At 1037 in 53° 40' N., 5° 35' W., a convoy of 6 M/V's of which 4 about 2000 tons and 2 about 1000 tons, steering West at 8-10 knots. A/C report. (Chatham 1315/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

Off Havre — Aircraft reports 2 M/v's about 3000 tons and 4 small destroyers at 1455/30 in 49° 30' N., 0° 42' W., steering S.E. (D.D.I.C. 1646/30)

North Atlantic — Suspicious large M/V steering about 348° bearing 341° 16 miles from my position 46° 19' N., 21° 21' W. My speed 8 knots due to temporary engine failure. (CHESHIRE 1739/30 to C. in C., W.A.) (C. in C., W.A. 2307/30 to ships, Area B.)

Ships sighted on 4/9 by TRIDENT and on 9/9 by TALISMAN — V.A.S. 1857/15/9. Can it be established whether these ships were friendly or otherwise, and where they were going. (C. in C., H.F. 1754/30 to Adty.)

Enemy Agents at Port Gordon — My 1250/30 and 1507/30. Arrest this morning at Port Gordon Railway Station of one Danish man and one Belgian woman who stated they landed early this morning on beach west of Port Gordon. They had £300 or £400 English money a portable transmitting W/T set and revolver in their possession. Recovered off Buckie at 1230 deflated rubber boat evidently German make. Found a cylinder and deflating gear on beach a little west of Port Gordon also a pair of boots marked 'Oslo' Evidence of enemy agents landing ex a submarine seems convincing. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1552/30 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

30.9.40.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

HALCYON — Salvage M/S Sloop. Stern sunk while entering Dry-dock at Southbank. Now floatedand safely dry-docked. (Smith, West Hartlepool 1732/30 to Adty).

KIPLING — In collision with one ship, believed QUEEN MAUD, of Convoy FN.92 at 0301/30 in 56°5'15"N, 2°36'52" W. Slight damage being temporarily repaired at Humber and should be ready sail at 0730/2 for Plymouth. Permanent repairs would take 5 days. Damage to M/V thought likely to be slight. (Capt.D.5 1840/30 to C.in C.Nore)

MOST SECRET

30.9.1940
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
F.N.& F.S.	Additional escorts for 95 to 101 and 102. (C. in C., Rosyth 0955/30)
O.B. 220	To alter course at 1600/30 (C. in C., W.A. 1240/30) WELLINGTON to remain with (C. in C., W.A. 1600/30)
W.S. 3	VIMY arriving Liverpool with EMPIRE TROOPER also VERSATILE due Clyde 2/10 with ULSTER MONARCH can be used to augment escort of W.S. 3. through submarine danger area if you so desire. (C. in C., H.F., to C. in C., W.A., 0937/30)
S.L. 47	Arrived with SHIKARI (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1034/30)
S.L.A. 47	Time of arrival (WESTON, 0910/30)
H.G. 44.	LADY LILIAN to meet if not in contact. (C. in C., W.A+.1040/30)
O.A. 221	Route (C. in C., W.A. to JASON 1140/30)
8 M/Vs	From Needles for Dartmouth. Escort (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1553/30)
"Rusty"	Convoy "Rusty" position and speed. (VISALMA to A.C.O.S. 2010/30)
O.A. 222	PRIMULA rejoining (C. in C., Rosyth 2020/30 CURACOA leaves on meeting W.N. 19 (R.A.D. HF 2225/30)
H.X. 74 A	CURACOA to meet (R.A.D. H.F. 2225/30)
W.N. 19	AYLMBANK to meet (R.A.D. H.F. 2227/30)
O.A. 223	AYLMBANK to cover to Pentland Firth (R.A.D. H.F. 2227/30)
O.A. 220	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1120/30) Clyde portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1130/30)
S.C. 5	Escorts to meet, position (C. in C., W.A. 1120/30, 1030/30) Route (C. in C., W.A. 1020/30)

SVEADROTT

Re Swedish application to sail U.S.A. and return. (N.A., Stockholm, 2041/30)

MOST SECRET.

30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

ARK ROYAL
AUSTRALIA

Your 1047/29. ARK ROYAL is to carry out an air reconnaissance of Dakar as early as possible to establish whether RICHELIEU in particular has sailed. (D.O.D.(F) 0011/30, to C.in C.S.A.)

Act in accordance with Admiralty 0011/30, proceeding afterwards to arrive at R.V. with my 1047/29 and 7057/29. (C.in C., S.A., to ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA, 0033/30) Departure 0815/30 ARK ROYAL and AUSTRALIA for U.K. with FORTUNE, FORESTER and GREYHOUND as destroyer escort until detached. (C.in C., S.W., 080714/30).

Fort Lamy.

Liaison Officer reports that apart from Col. Marchand morale of officers and troops at Fort Lamy is high and staunch supporters of Free French Movement. (C.in C. M.E., 0121/30 to W.O.)

French A/C.

2 unidentified bomber aircraft flew over Freetown 28/9. Engaged by H.M.ships and A/A defences. (G.O.C.,W.Africa, to W.O., 0806/30).

"Alloy" and "Shrapnel".

Following from G.O.C., Force A. Hoped to restow ships at Freetown for Alloy and Shrapnel by 4/10. Disposal of troops proposed as follows:-(details). If time justified troops of Shrapnel can be accommodated in Gold Coast vide Milwestafs 3/1404 of 28/9. (O.C.Troops, Sierra Leone, 0808/30).

Your 2236/29. Escort for Duala force mentioned in (e) of Admty 2225/16 is considered minimum required and includes 1 battleship and 4 destroyers. Understand Alloy and Shrapnel combined also included 1 battleship and 10 destroyers. Only 1 battleship and 8 or 9 destroyers at present available in Force M. Therefore combined Alloy and Shrapnel must wait for completion of Duala or vice versa. (F.O.,Force M, 1048N/30 to Admty).

Your 0061/29. Now agreed with G.O.C., Force A that ships can probably be restowed at Freetown for Alloy and Shrapnel by 4/10. Revised disposal of troops is proposed by G.O.C., Force A, in his No.2863/29/9 to Troopers. (C.in C.,S.A., to Admty.1147/30).

French Trawlers.

Gibraltar 1615/30. French armed trawlers

MOST SECRET.

30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

French Trawlers (contd.) — ASPIRANT BRUN escorting CAP PINEDE, CAP FIGALO, CHATEAU PAVIA, passed E. to W. (S.O.(I), 01b. 1831/30).

Duala, Nigeria Anchorages. — Free French Forces may be moving to Duala shortly though this should be kept secret. Requesting information re anchorage for heavy ships. (C.in C., S.A., 1407N/30 to Govr.,Nigeria.)

My 1411/29. You should arrive off Base buoy by 1530/1 if tide is suitable. Also ordering her to obtain details of anchorage and facilities for disembarking troops. (C.in C.S.A., 2037/30 to CORNWALL).

French Submarines. — My 1729/29. Should French submarine be met in company with surface warship, ship is to be informed that any attempt by submarine to dive will be treated as a hostile act and immediate retaliatory action will be taken against both ships. (C.in C.S.A., 2119/30 to CORNWALL).

De Gaulle Escort. — Your 1048/30. When we know date on which De Gaulle's force ready to leave Freetown, details of escort can be settled. (1 S.L. to S.O., Force M, 2138/40).

North Atlantic.

Azores. — My 1910/29 para.(c). Most probable objectives of enemy attack and possible landing places on the islands (details). (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.,Force H, 1901/30)

Portuguese Ships. — Repeating N.A.Lisbon 1509/30, movements of Portuguese warships, to S.O., Force H. (F.O.C.N.A., 2316/30)

A/S Patrols. — Details of patrols 30/9. (F.O.C.N.A. to ships on patrol, Gibraltar Force, 2045/30)

Lisbon Evacuees. — Admty 0015/29 (sent by War Registry asking for number of British subjects referred to in 1533/28). At present 45. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1445/30).

QUANZA, MADEIRENSE. — Portuguese. Questions re interception of, and Protuguese protest. (F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 1604/30)

ARGUS. — Escorted by CILICIA. Route [illegible] W.A. 1704/30)

Air Patrols, Finisterre. — Your 2225/29. Patrols sho out on 30/9 and 1/10. (V. to F.O.C.N.A.). This is t (F.O.C.N.S. 1205/30).

FURIOUS. — To join Force H temporari 2344/30, see Mediterrane

MOST SECRET.

30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (contd.)

Suspicious Vessel. N.A.Madrid 1930/28. Suggesting might have been Yugoslav IVO MATKOVIC, stopped by H.M.S.SAYONARA, or Panama YOLLAND. (S.O.(I), Gib., 1602/30)

South Atlantic.

KEKTOSONO. Letter interpreted by Censor shows KEKTOSONO was captured by German Raider about noon 1/7 and sent with Prize crew into Lorient. Arrived 15/9. American missionary passengers were escorted to Spanish frontier by German naval officers. Ship was bound for Freetown from West Indies. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1125/30)

ALCANTARA. Orders for patrol off Brazil. (C.in C., S.A., 2313N/30).

A.P.3. Composition. (C.in C.,S.A., 1521/30, 2213/30).

CUMBERLAND. Your 1437/28. New switchboard not available for 2 to 3 months. CUMBERLAND meantime to work chiefly from Freetown on troop convoy escort duty. If feasible, to take over escort from SHEFFIELD of W.S.3 (slow). (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.,S.A., 2314/30).

RESOLUTION. Transferred to administration of C.in C., S.A., from 30/9. (C.in C.,S.A., 2147/30).

Mediterranean.

Enemy Battle Fleet. Large Italian forces 37.42 N, 18.00 E, course 360°, speed 15 knots at 0950 G.M.T. (V.A.,Malta, 1203/30).
Position course and speed of enemy Battle Fleet, 37.42 N, 18.00 E, etc. at 0950 G.M.T. You have complete freedom of movement until REGENT enters her area 0001/1. (Capt.S.1. to RAINBOW, 1345/30).
My 1345. Corrected position, course and speed of enemy fleet at 0950 G.M.T. was 37.42 N, 18.24 E, 340°, 15 knots. (Capt. S.1. to RAINBOW and REGENT, 1521/30).
Enemy fleet of 4 or 5 battleships and 11 cruisers and many destroyers located N.N.W. 110 steaming for Taranto at 22 knots at 11.30. In view of enemy preponderance and impossibility of coming up with them, am pursuing the object given in my 1637/24. (C.in C.,Med., to Admty. 1359/30).
Position course and speed of enemy at 1337 G.M.T. 38.54 N, 18.06 E, 235°, 20 knots. Enemy consists of 2 battleships, 3 cruisers large number of destroyers. (Capt.S.1 to RAINBOW and REGENT, 1755/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (contd.)

Italian Claim. Rome broadcast in English claims that a British battleship was hit in the stern by an aircraft torpedo today. (C.O.I.S., Alexandria, 2251/30).

Italian S/M Sunk. STUART obtained contact with S/M in 31.35 N, 28.48 E at 2215/29. Series of attacks during night. Damage forced S/M to surface, when she was bombed by flying-boat. Crew abandoned ship and S/M sank at 0925/30 in 31.30 N, 28.33 E. 47 survivors rescued, 2 missing believed killed. S/M believed to be Italian GONDAR, 11 days out from Spezia on reconnaissance patrol. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria, 1638/30).

FURIOUS. Proposed should join Force H temporarily to be available for projected operation. Aircraft equipment. Intended she should sail with fast portion of W.S.3 Convoy (date) (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.,H.F., etc., 2344/30).

Minesweepers. Proposals for reinforcement of Mediterranean in convoy escorts, fast fleet sweepers, fleet minesweepers and LL minesweepers. (D.M.S. to C.in C.Med., 1232/1).

East Indies.

French Relations, Djibouti. Re reply to be given to Governor, Djibouti. (S.of S. for Colonies to Govr., Aden, 0020/30).

Troop Transport. My 1302/25. Re sailing KHEDIVE ISMAIL and ERINPURA with troops to Middle East and Mombasa. (P.S.T.O., Bombay, 1300Z/30).

Raiders. It is considered that there have been 3 separate ships operating on E.I.Station.
(a) Raider that was operating 500 miles South of Ceylon mid July. She appears to have gone eastward Southabout (? Australia). No description but probably has laid mines.
(b) Raider operating to S. and E. of Madagascar from 27/8 to present time. It is believed that this one accounts for all ships recently lost and is possibly the one engaged by ALCANTARA. See my 0718/30/7. Carries aircraft.
(c) Probably left Red Sea 1/8 and appears not to have attacked merchant shipping but employs peculiar tactics such as "heading off". Object unknown but may be either (i) to give herself away to decoy naval force from Raider (b) or (ii) to act as depot ship for supplies and prisoners. It is believed (b) and (c) recently met in position 006°S 047°E. and "heading off" tactics may be for purpose of identifying (b). Sighted under 3 miles description

MOST SECRET.

30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Raiders (contd.) is 5000 tons, like SORECK or SOPHIE RICKMERS but disguise undoubtedly used. (C.in C. E.I., 1440Z/30)

China.

Raider message. Cancel my 1500/29. Interception was effected before 0005/26. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0211Z/30 to Admty).
Your 1500/29. WESER was intercepted at 0306Z/26. Considered improbable that raider was elsewhere than to the southward of Madagascar. Detail of transmission not known in Admty. as transmission inaudible to U.K. stations. (D.D.I.C., 0924/30 to Capt.O.S., Singapore).

America and West Indies.

CARADOC. To use discretion as to how to patrol. To arrive St.Lucia a.m./2/10. (C.in C., A.W.I., 1001/30).

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. Your 1321/22, Ministry of Shipping 0940/30. Provisionally sailed DUCHESS OF RICHMOND direct for Montreal. Request confirmation of destination. Would appreciate if action could be taken to prevent such discrepancies between information of D. of S.T. and Ministry of Shipping. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1417/30)

MOST SECRET.

30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ILORA SIEMERS — Left Stettin 19/9 for Norway, said to be with troops and military stores. (D.S.391)

JOHANN FAULBAUM — Damage reported in D.S.14/9 now known to have been a broken H.P. slide valve. Ship arranged for repair at Ventspils. (D.S.391).

SPEZIA — Left Alicante 25/9, arrived Valencia same day. (D.S.391).

ARAUCA — Following from New York. Anonymous information received that ARAUCA now at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was released from attachment today and may sail immediately. Cannot estimate reliability. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1947/30).
My 1947. Jacksonville reports settlement of claims against ARAUCA expected to be reached today. Sailing arrangements unknown. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2105/30)

MOST SECRET.

30.9.40.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

IBVERSHANNON (torpedoed 20/9) — 15 survivors landed Belfast 29/9. a boat with 17 is expected at Londonderry. Another boat with 16 missing. (D.S.391).

BLAIRANGUS
ELMBANK (torpedoed 21/9) — Master and 27 from BLAIRANGUS, 17 Europeans and 38 Lascars from ELMBANK, and body of the Master, landed at St. John's, N.F., by British FIREPOOL. (D.S.391)

ASHANTIAN
STRATFORD torpedoed 26/9) — 54 survivors are in GLOXINIA and 15 in trawler WOLVES (D.S.391). ASHANTIAN in tow of tugs arrived Kames Bay 1525/30. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1610/30)

FREDERICK S.FALES (sunk 21/9) — Requesting confirmation and if any crew saved. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1624/30).

MABRITON (torpedoed 24/9) — British, 6694 tons. Following received from ROCHESTER by H of 210 Squadron at 0600 position 56.35N 14.12 W. Picked up 7 survivors first and third officers of British ship MABRITON, torpedoed 2345/24 36 hours after OA215 dispersed position not known. Survivors report second ship's boat 16 crew including a Master and Second Officer were last seen sailing east on 26/9. 12 of crew known to have been lost. (ROCHESTER, 1032/30).

CITY OF MANCHESTER. (escaped) — British 8917 tons. Attacked by S/M, torpedo missed, 54.28 N, 26.33 W. (Lyness W/T, 1438/30).

MONTE MONCAYO (torpedoed 28/9) — Spanish, 4291 tons. Torpedoed 28/9, 8 miles off Cagliari by Italian S/M. 4 killed. H.M.Ambassador informed, suggests laconic statement of this loss and loss of CABO TORTOSA be made by B.B.C. (Madrid, 2012/30). 8 of crew reported killed. (D.S.392).

S/M's Reported.

0919 — 55°N, 23°W, position indefinite. (D.S.391)

0908 — 47°N, 6°W , position indefinite. (D.S.391)

1135 — Periscope reported by Fort George in 57.36 N 04.03 W. (F.O.I.C., Invergordon, 1250/30). C.3, VERSATILE and Anson A/C searching. (F.O.I.C., Invergordon, 1507/30).

1209 — D.F., 57.30 N, 15°W, unreliable fix. (H.Q., 15 Group, 1315/30).

1440 — 53.10 N, 16.20 W, position indefinite. (D.S.392).

MOST SECRET.

30.9.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported. (contd.)

South Atlantic.

1025/29 — Flying boat Cassiopeia reports at 0925 G.M.T./29 in position 24.30 N, 16.20 W, 2 S/M's in line astern on southerly course. (C.in C., S.A., 2113M/30) May be French. (D.S.392).

Estimated U/B Dispositions. — Italian. 1 between Gibraltar and Azores. German. 1 approaching Lorient (a different U/B from the one in yesterday's estimate). 1 in about 55 degrees N. 23 degrees W. at 0919/30. 1 Probably between 57° and 59°N 15° and 18°W at 2322/29. 3 or possibly 4 in N.W.Approaches of which lwas in about 54.40 N, 13°W at 1952/29 probably shadowing convoy O.B.220; 1 in 56 degrees 08'N 9 degrees 40'W at 0822/29; whereabouts of the others unknown. Possibly 1 in Moray Firth. (D.D.I.C. 1215/30).

S/M's Attacked.

Italian GONDAR — Sunk by STUART. (see Mediterranean, Foreign Stations).

ADMIRALTY WAR DIARIES

1 10 40

TO

31 10 40

SECRET 51/

PARK ROYAL

FOR SAFE KEEPING

WAR DIARY

1/10/1940 – 31/10/1940.

T.S.D. (HISTORICAL SECTION)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep to Ushant

EMERALD and 3 destroyers carried out a sweep from Plymouth to near Ushant and back last night.

Enemy Destroyers off South Foreland

3 enemy destroyers were reported off the South Foreland shortly after midnight 30/9-1/10. EGLINGTON, VENOMOUS and WILD SWAN were sent to reinforce the destroyers patrolling off Dover.

Enemy T.B's Sweeping in Channel

4 German T.B's were reported sweeping in the Channel shortly after midnight 30/0-1/10. MACKAY on passage from Portsmouth to Sheerness was ordered to investigate. The enemy were not encountered.

Enemy destroyer Torpedoed

SWORDFISH this morning attacked 4 small destroyers off Cape Levi and considers she hit one of them.

Sweep of Dutch Coast

Brown Ridge destroyer patrol last night swept up the Dutch coast from the Hook to Ijmuiden.

German Red Cross Vessel

About 0030 today MALCOLM closed a small vessel which switched on illumination showing her funnel marked with a Red cross as MALCOLM was about to open fire. C. in C., Nore considers it most objectionable that a patrol vessel perhaps armed with gun or torpedo should be able to pass as a hospital ship by turning a switch, particularly in view of the recent that an observer in Holland saw a row of vessels painted with red crosses and was told they would be used for landing troops in England. The Admiralty are issuing orders that all such ships are to be destroyed, except notified and accepted hospital ships.

KING GEORGE V

The new battleship KING GEORGE V was commissioned today at Tyne.

Reinforcement of Western Approaches

JACKAL, KASHMIR, and JUPITER left the Humber early this morning for Plymouth.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night operated successfully against the enemy's invasion ports from Ostend to Le Havre. Docks at Cuxhaven and Amsterdam were attacked but results were not observed.

Blenheim aircraft today bombed the docks and outer harbour at Cherbourg, but did not observe the results.

Enemy Air Activity

At 0040 today A/S yacht MAID MARION on Portsmouth Loop Patrol was unsuccessfully bombed by an aircraft which was neither seen nor heard. C. in C., Portsmouth considers it possible that other losses may have been due to this form of attack.

Convoy W.N. 195 was attacked unsuccessfully this evening 30 miles E.N.E. of Kinnairds Head.

H.E. bombs were dropped this evening near the entrance of the Mersey Tunnel at Birkenhead and also near a dock of Messrs. Cammel Laird & Co.

Mining

Operation W.N. 42

Mine layers SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, PORT NAPIER with destroyer escort laid mines last night off the North Coast of Ireland.

Two Hampdens last night laid mines successfully in the Elbe Estuary and two Beauforts in the Jade and Weser rivers.

Falmouth is closed on account of moored and magnetic mines.

Shipping

From sunset 1/10 no merchant vessel (with certain exceptions) is to approach the coast of U.K. between sunset and sunrise.

Enemy minelaying by aircraft last night is suspected in the Firth of Forth, Thames Estuary and off Harwich.

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Air reconnaissance of Dakar this morning shows that RICHELIEU is at the same berth, and one FANTASQUE class and two other destroyers and a submarine and a sloop are in the inner harbour. In the outer harbour two GLOIRE class cruisers are anchored one mile south of Tiaroye. Tugs are standing by a FANTASQUE class beached near Rufusque.

Air reconnaissance of Casablanca with evening was blank.

A Sunderland aircraft on reconnaissance to Cape Finisterre had indecisive combat with 3 M.E. 110 55 miles south of Lands End.

The French press admits the loss of the submarine PERSEE during the operations at Dakar.

Mediterranean

A Blenheim today successfully attacked water tanks at Bug Bug, scoring direct hits It is reported that the Italian forces at Sidi Barrani are supplied from these fresh water tanks.

MOST SECRET

1.10.40
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — Number 1, Nore 1, Dover 1, Channel 1. (D.C.0216/1)
Number 1, Nore 2, Dover 2, Channel 2. (D.C.1415/1)

VOLCANO Signals — At 1000/1. (DOD.1038/1)

Rosyth Small Craft — Cancel my 1045/7/9. Until further orders all small craft are to be kept at one hours notice from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. Ships with LL sweeps to be at 30 minutes notice during this period. (C.in C. Rosyth 1817/1)

Defence of Portland Dockyard — Your 1607/30. Home Forces accept full responsibility for defence of Dockyard against invasion. If military arrangements considered inadequate, request details and proposals may be forwarded for further examination of matter. (D. of LD. 1856/1 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Portsmouth Routine Destroyer Patrols — Experience sho s that routine destroyer patrols from Portsmouth on alternate nights should extend further Eastward, so as to be more readily available for interception of enemy craft. It is accordingly proposed that the patrol should in future occupy O D 6 and 7 combined arriving at the Western limit of this patrol 3 hours after sunset and leaving 2 hours before sunrise. On Portsmouth patrol nights tra lers normally on O D 6 and 7 patrol will be moved to O D 5. If you agree it is requested this routine be brought into force tomorrow 2/10. (VA. Dover 1301/1 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Policy

Redistribution of Destroyers. — My 2335/30. Ships of 5th D.F. and 1st D.F. are for the present to remain under administration of C.in C. Nore and C.in C. Portsmouth respectively. Captain D.5 should leave a skeleton administrative staff at Immingham. (ACNS.H.1454/1)

Enemy Patrol Vessels passing as Hospital Ships — Following received from D.16 begins at 0030 approximately closed green light which was sighted at about 6 miles range in position 52° 11' N. 4° 12' E. Seen to be small single funnelled vessel which illuminated her funnel marked with a Red Cross and upper works as MALCOLM was about to open fire at range of 1500 yards. Fire was withheld. Nothing else seen on sweep. 0611/1. ends.

/It.....

MOST SECRET

1.10.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Enemy Patrol Vessels passing as Hospital Ships (continued)

It is most objectionable that a patrol vessel perhaps armed with gun or torpedo should be able to pass as a hospital ship by turning a switch, particularly in view of the recent report that an observer in Holland saw a row of vessels painted with Red Crosses and was told they would be used for landing an army in England. It is proposed in future to sink ships which behave as described in D.16's signal. Request approval. (C.in C. Nore 1600/1 to Admiralty).

Movements

JACKAL)
KASHMIR)
JUPITER)

JACKAL take KASHMIR and JUPITER under his orders and proceed at 0600 for Plymouth. South Foreland to Plymouth in dark hours. (C.in C.H.F.0046/1 to JACKAL). Pass South Goodwin L.V. at 1930/1. Route thence (C. in C. Nore D946/1 to JACKAL). Request Fighter cover 1030 to 1930/1. (C.in C. Nore 1046/1 to H.F.C).

EAGLE)
ENCHANTRESS)
FOXHOUND)

To join Capt. D.4 at Rosyth on completing repairs. (C.in C.H.F.1056/1).

DOVER

Patrols for Night 1/2. (VA. Dover 1155/1) (C.in C. Portsmouth 3018/1 to BEAGLE).

B-class Destroyers joining H.F.

Admiralty 2335/30. Paragraph 8. Destination Rosyth. (C.in C. H.F.1003/1 to C.in C. Nore).

East Minesweepers for Sheerness.

6 to be organised in 3 Divisions and sailed to arrive Sheerness by 1500/2. Report names of ships detailed. (C.in C. Nore 1906/1 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

BULLDOG)
BRILLIANT)
BEAGLE)

BULLDOG leave Sheerness AM/2 and R/V with BRILLIANT and BEAGLE off House L.V. at 0830 for passage to Rosyth. (C.in C. Nore 1500/1). Sailing and Route (C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/1 to Admiralty). Sailed BEAGLE and BRILLIANT (C.in C. Portsmouth 2317/1).

Humber.

Patrol 0. Movements for 2/10. (H.C.I.C. Humber 1515/1).

Orfordness

Movements for Night 1/2. (ACOS.1531/1). Trawler Lines tonight (ACOS.1536/1).

KILLING.

Intend sailing at 0730/2 for Plymouth. Route. (D.S.1604/1 to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (continued)

AMAZON — Completed and proceeded Greenock 1300/1. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1631/1 to Admiralty).

20th A/S Flotilla — Will sail from Needles at 1945/1 escorted by 5 Motor Vessels. Route. Due Dartmouth daylight/2. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1755/1 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Rosyth Area — Movements for Night 1/2. (C.in C. Rosyth 1936/1 and 2110/1).

EREBUS — Your 0847/30/9. EREBUS may come to 12 hours notice forthwith to clean one Boiler and complete defects by Noon/5th October. (C.in C. Nore 1936/1 to EREBUS).

Nore. — State of M.T.B.'s. (C.in C. Nore 1955/1 to Admiralty).

Operations

Enemy Destroyers off South Foreland. — 3 Enemy Destroyers reported off South Foreland. Proceed to South Falls Buoy along QZ3.117. Remain near there and be ready to reinforce 4 Destroyers patrolling off Dover if necessary. Return to Harbour by daylight. (C.in C. Nore 0040/1 to EGLINTON, VENOMOUS, WILD SWAN). WIDGEON and SHEARWATER are patrolling QZ3.117. (C.in C. Nore 0056/1 to EGLINTON). My position at 0300 will be 51°29' N. 1°44' E. course 5 speed 10 knots (WIDGEON 0056/1 to EGLINTON).

Enemy Torpedo Boats sweeping in 180.QEX. — 4 German T.B.'s reported sweeping probably in 180 QEX. Close and investigate (VA. Dover 0005/1 to MACKAY) 207 QEX is dangerous at all states of tide. (VA. Dover 0100/1 to MACKAY). Enemy probably returned to harbour. BULLDOG and SARDONYX should be detached to Portsmouth. (VA.Dover 0415/1 to MACKAY).

Sweep of French Coast from Roches Douvres to Westward "LOCAL". — GARLAND, DESPATCH, KELVIN, JAGUAR to sail at 2000/1, sweep towards Roches Douvres, thence Westward along French coast, returning to Plymouth so as to reach outer end of searched Channel by 0300/2. Object to destroy Enemy Forces including M/V's and take Prisoners. Code Word LOCAL. (C.in C. WA.1909/1 to GARLAND). Raise steam. Sail with DESPATCH and Destroyers at 2000. (C.in C. WA.1915/1 to BLYSKAWICA). Request Fighter protection from 0630/2 till arrival at Plymouth. (C.in C.WA.1919/1 to HQFC).

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

Operation MF. — ERREBUS to be ready to repeat Operation MF by 5/10. (ACNS.H.1581/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Shelling of Dover. Position of Enemy Battery. — Position of Battery which shelled Dover 30/9 as reported in my 1301/30 and my 2030/9/9 not yet mentioned in PRU reports. Consider position should be determined as soon as possible. (VA. Dover 1746/1 to Admiralty).

Submarines

TRIBUNE TUNA — Proceed submerged by day towards Bishops Rock and not to Falmouth. (VAS.0004/1). R/V with Escort 10' W. of Bishops Rock Light at 0800/2 (FOS.0031/1). Sailed 2345 CUTTY SARK to R/V with TUNA and TRIBUNE (C.in C.WA.0055/2 to Admiralty).

S/M Patrol off Brest — Your 1623/27. Paragraph C approved. (DOD.H.1306/1 to VAS).

Greenock — Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1605/1).

Dutch S/M.O.14. — Due U.K. about 18/10 with HX.78. Will proceed Rothesay to be temporarily attached to 7th S/M. Flotilla. (VAS.1607/1).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0700/2 (VAS.1631/1).

SWORDFISH. — Attacked 4 small Destroyers steering 260° at 18 knots off Cape Levi at 0947. Estimate one hit. (SWORDFISH 2043/1 to Captain S.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

VANITY — VANITY's 1917/29 and 1929/39. Request full details of this attack including Type of A/C. (DDIC.1157/1 to Captain D. Rosyth Escort Force) Your 1157/1. Details as follows. (Captain D., REF.2037/1 to Admiralty).

Convoy ALPHA — Being shadowed by one A/C at 210° sunk L.V. 2 miles. Course 040°, speed 14 knots. (PINTAIL 1305/1).

Aberdeen — Owing to Enemy A/C attacks on Ships in vicinity, which may continue, it is not possible to accommodate any more vessels over 55 feet beam and 20 feet draught. There are no Dumb Barges at Aberdeen to assist Salvage operations. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1901/1 to Admiralty).

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (continued)

Convoy HUSKY — One A/C shadowing at 58° 33' N. 2° 47' W. (Curacoa 1455/1) Anson is escorting you. (Lyness W/T. 1457/1 to CURACOA). Fighters being sent. (Scapa Base Ship 1505/1). Being attacked by A/C in 58° 8' N. 2° 16' W. (CURACOA 1935/1).

EMPIRE SUCCESS. — From Convoy SL.47 arrived and berthed. Slight damage to upper deck and steering gear by one Bomb. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1434/1 to Admiralty). Attacked by one A/C at 2030/30, 5 miles East of Peterhead. Damaged by one Bomb and bursting of cordite Gun Charges. One dead and four injured. Expert ready sail for Hull in 6 days. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1616/1 to Admiralty).

MAID MARION — Portland's 1430/28 and my 1627/28. A/S Yacht. Attacked at 0040/1 on Portsmouth Loop Patrol by 4 Bombs. No damage, but A/C neither seen nor heard. Possible some other losses may be due to this form of attack. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1729/1 to Admiralty).

SUSSEX. — My 2314/23/9. Present condition. (FOIC. Glasgow 1750/1 and 1701/2).

MANINA — Fishing Trawler. Attacked by one A/C. at 2130/30 in 51°36'N. 4°16'W. No casualties or damage. (FOIC. Milford Haven 1815/1 to Admiralty).

VIVIEN — Your 1519/29 and 1824/29. Signal further report on return to harbour. Indicate whether any doubt as to correct Identification Letter being read by light. (D3D.1834/1 to VIVIEN).

Mining

Falmouth — Closed, owing to Moored and Magnetic Mines. (FOIC. Falmouth 0932/1).

Harwich. — One Magnetic Mine detonated by LL Sweep at 0620 in 51°35'45"N. 1°27'30"E. (FOIC. Harwich 1438/1 to Admiralty).

Enemy Intelligence

HIPPER-class Cruisers — B.3 source. 2 Cruisers believed HIPPER class and Destroyer Escort observed 25/9 on line between Skagen and Paternoster Light steering North. One HIPPER class Cruiser seen proceeding South a day or two later. (NA. Stockholm 1945/1 to DNI).

MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (continued)

The Hague — A/C reports 5 M/V's about 5000 Tons at 1320 off The Hague, steering NE. (VAS.1541/1 to S/M. H.49).

Barges near Ushant. — A/C report 200 Barges in following positions (C.in C.WA.1351/1 to DESPATCH).

Vessels sighted by TRIDENT and TALISMAN — Your 1754/30/9. Belgian Fishing Vessel SULAIMA ADRIENNE may have been vessel seen by TRIDENT on 4/9. Nothing known of 700 Ton Swedish vessel seen by TALISMAN on 9/9. (DDIC.2013/1 to C.in C.HF).

Miscellaneous

Contaminated Water — Report on Water-Tanks of HORNPIPE being forwarded. Now reported Rescue Tug ASSURANCE water also contaminated. Sailing postponed for investigation. (FO. Number 0927/1 to ASCBS. Newcastle).

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War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

LAGOSIAN — Bombed 3/9. In basin, awaiting Tugs. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1901/1 to Admiralty).

QUEEN CITY — Bombed 28/29 September. At Point Law being repaired temporarily. Should be able to sail in 12 to 14 days. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1901/1 to Admiralty).

EMPIRE SUCCESS — Bombed 30/9. Will be ready to sail in 6 days, after repairs to deck steering-rod and D.C. (NOIC. Aberdeen 1901/1 to Admiralty).

Aberdeen — Present limited capacity of Port for Repairs and Salvage. (See Enemy Air Activity).

ATHELKING — British, 9557 Tons. C.in C.E.I.1016/9/9. From Sourabaya 28/9. Not arrived. (30.1 Singapore 0345.2/1 to Admiralty).

CAITHNESS — British, 4970 Tons. From U.K. due Cape Town 26/9. Not arrived. (30.1 Cape Town 0935/1 to Admiralty).

CITY OF CANTON — British, 6698 Tons. Due Cape Town 26/9 from U.K. Not arrived. (30.1 Cape Town 0935/1 to Admiralty).

BENZADA — British, 4161 Tons. Left Liverpool 21/8 for Rangoon. Not reported Cape of Good Hope. (30.1 Cape Town 0935/1 to Admiralty).

BORKUM — Ex-German, 3070 Tons. Set on fire 25/11/39 Waiting Tugs and Escort. (NC30.Kirkwall 2035/1 to Admiralty).

ALEKIA — British Tanker, 3016 Tons. Torpedoed 2/8. Salvage complete. Waiting Tugs and Escort. (NC30. Kirkwall 2035/1 to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
W.S. 3.	Route (C. in C., W.A. 0943/1)
O.A. 221	To alter course. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1300/1)
O.B. 222	After O.B.H. 222 has joined, ARSENAL to proceed Holyhead to land survivors from aircraft (C. in C., W.A., 1150/1) A/S trawlers (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2100/1)
H.X. 74 B	ARSENAL to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1150/1)
O.A. 223	WELLINGTON may return with survivors. SANDWICH may be required on leaving O.A. 223 to proceed Sydney C.B. to bring back S.C.8 (C. in C., W.A., 1251/1)
S.C. 8.	(See O.A. 223)
W.N. 20	A/S trawlers (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2030/1)
O.B. 220	Submarine shadowing (C. in C., W.A., 1739/1 to WELLINGTON)
H.X. 74	Some telegraphy signals neard by GERANIUM. Convoy not attacked. (WINCHELSEA, 1515/1)
S.C.H.78	Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1220/1)
O.B. 225	Route (D.T.D. 111/2)
O.A. 225	Route (D.T.D. 1112/2)
S.H.X.77	Composition and cargoes. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1135/1)
F.S. 97	Will have Methil 1800/1 close escort VANITY, WOLFHOUND (C. in C., Rosyth, 1149/1)
W.S. 3	Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1431/1) Time of sailing and escort (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1445/1) SHEFFIELD, WITHERINGTON and VISCOUNT o R.V. route. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1515/1) HIGHLAND BRIGADE to replace EMPIRE TROOPER Date of fast group sailing, and composition Oceanescort KENYA. Fighter protection code word "Sollo" (D.O.D. (H) 1738/1)
SVEADROTT	Reply to his 2041/30. Adty. awaiting decision by M.E.W. (D.N.I. to N.A.Stockholm 1645/1)
Iceland	D.O.D.(H) 1946/1 (See 2/10)

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

WarDiary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

French Africa. Situation Report No.26 (D.N.I.,1332/1).

S/M Prisoners. Requesting early reply re disposal of prisoners taken from French S/M sunk off Dakar. (C.in C.,S.A., 1131N/1).

ESPERANCE. Following from French Admiralty. M.V.ESPERANCE en route to Djibouti to embark French troops for Indo-China has been taken to Aden by British. Please agree not to interfere with French troopships especially ESPERANCE. If, contrary to what was intended, surplus troops in Djibouti cannot be evacuated with their arms, these arms will all fall into Italian hands. The troops are to keep order in Indo-China and it is in British interests to allow passage. Seizure of vessel like ESPERANCE serves no purpose for England. (N.A.Madrid, 1115/1)

KOLT. A/S trawler, being sent to join you at Duala. (C.in C.S.A., to CORNWALL, 1127N/1).

De Gaulle Force. My 2037/30. Probable date of arrival. (C.in C.,S.A., 1637/1 to CORNWALL). Composition, arrangements and escort. (C.in C.,S.A., 1815N/1).

Casablanca. Reconnaissance reports 0930/1. 1 destroyer sighted steering S, 20 knots. 1330/1, negative. (F.O.C.N.A. 1702/1). 2030/1, negative. (F.O.C.N.A.2146/1).

French Prisoners. Your 2001/28. To be retained at Freetown for the present. (C.N.S. to C.in C.,S.A., 2114/1). Your 1427/29, re disposal of French officials held at Takoradi. Proposal re TOUAREG approved. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.S.A., 2227/1).

Dakar. Requesting result of air reconnaissance ordered Admty.0011/30. (D.O.D.(F) to ARK ROYAL, 2244/1). Admty 0011/30. Reconnaissance of Dakar 0730 N/1. Inner harbour French Battleship RICHELIEU same berth. One FANTASQUE class, two destroyers and one Sloop at (corrupt group) one MELE. Possibly one small warship in dry dock and two submarines near dock. Outer harbour two GLOIRE class anchored one mile south of Tiaroye. 26 Merchant ships in roads. Tugs standing by FANTASQUE Class beached near Rufisque. (ARK ROYAL 1065/1)
For Col. Leclerc from Gen. De Gaulle. British ships of Nigerian Navy will cruise in your territorial waters unconditionally. This is to warn you not to be alarmed at this operation. (Freetown, 1202/1, to CORNWALL).

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French (contd.)

Suez Reaction. Admty.0027/9(requesting weekly report of Suez Canal officials on current events). Dakar incident has not affected loyalty of pro-British element but has confirmed anti-British element in their attitude. (S.B.N.O.,Suez Canal, 1005/1).

French Claims. French press 26-29/9. Bitter comment on Dakar action. Admiral Darlan message to French verbatim and Rear-Admiral Platon to coloured Frenchmen particularly hostile. In addition to hit on RESOLUTION from submarine RENVENIERS etc., also claimed bomb on RENOWN in Gibraltar which stated to have left in consequence. Admitted loss of submarine PERSEE but state hit on RICHELIEU no damage no casualties. French opinion issuing through results of Dakar still favourable to us but belief in De Gaulle shaken. (Wolffson, Istanbul, 0955/1).

North Atlantic.

Finisterre, Spanish Squadron. Your 2316/30. Spanish Squadron of 3 cruisers and 4 destroyers was off Cape Finisterre 1200/30. (D.D.I.C.,0832/1 to F.O.C.N.A.) arrived Marin 1930/30. (D.D.I.C.1948/1).

Destroyers. Re transfer of 3 'G' Class destroyers from 13 D.F. to E.Mediterranean, their places being taken by ECLIPSE, ECHO and ESCAPADE. (A.C.N.S.(F), 0118/1).

BARHAM. Asking whether can be docked for cleaning and repairs to bulges. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0118/1) (See also Mediterranean). Reply (F.O.C.N.A., 1746/1).

MADEIRENSE. Your 1604/30. My 1851/30 directs that Portuguese MADEIRENSE is to be removed from class K and treated as if she had ship's navicert. (D.C.0016/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Italian Trawlers. 3 Italian trawlers, believed those which recently arrived there from Azores, reported sailed from Vigo 0830/1. (D.D.I.C. 1857/1 to RENOWN and ARGUS).

South Atlantic.

N.S.3. Route to Freetown. (C.in C.W.A., 0943/1)

Overdue Ships. CAITHNESS and CITY OF CANTON, both due Capetown 26/9 from U.K., not arrived. MENZADA, Liverpool 21/8 for Rangoon, not reported Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 0935/1).

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd.)

WIPUNEN, Suspicious.

Finnish Ship WIPUNEN left Buenos Aires 24/9 for Petreso via Monte Video and Hampton Roads but was 4 days aground near Martin Garcia though understand could have got off earlier. Owing to possibility of GRAF SPEE sailors being taken on board, Captain of Port carried out partial search of ship while in Monte Video. He reported that ship appeared suspicious though nothing definite found. Four men said to be Norwegians or Swedes signed on in Buenos Aires and one in Monte Video. Ship sailed from Monte Video 1430 G.M.T. (S.O.(I), Monte Video, 1903/1).

Suspicious Ship.

Master of WINDSOR CASTLE reports on 30/9 1330 G.M.T. in 003.08 S., 017.18 W. sighted one neutral merchant ship (description), course 330, 12 knots, nearest approach 11 miles. (Magistrate, Ascension, 1200/1).

Mediterranean

OSIRIS Report

Extract from Patrol report of OSIRIS, Bari Durazzo area, re tides, lights, and enemy convoys. (Capt.S. 1. 2007/1 to RAINBOW and REGENT)

BARHAM Destroyers

BARHAM and 3 destroyers to join C. in C., Med. when operation of passing M.T. ship though to Malta takes place. Damage to BARHAM. F.O.C.N.A. to report on transfer of 3 ^{Q} class destroyers from 13 D.F. to Eastern Mediterranean, their place being taken by ECLIPSE, ECHO and ESCAPADE. (A.C.N.S., (F) to C. in C., Med. 0118/1) Reply. Proposing INGLEFIELD also join 13 D.F. in which case prepared to send HOTSPUR to E. Med. with 3 ^{Q} class destroyers (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/1)

Malta Air Raid

Malta Air Intelligence Report from 1800/30 All times zone minus one. 0700-0935, Skua of F.A.. carried out reconnaissance Messina-August and Syracuse. No important shipping in harbours. Following aircraft carried out reconnaissance covering same area mentioned in my reports of 28/9, 29/9 and 30/9. 0515-0909 hours Glen Martin of 231 Flight reported 2 ships believed our own cruisers positions 35° 53' N., 17° 05' E., course 090° speed 20 knots. 0516-1735 Sunderland of 230 Squadron. Nothing to report. 0750-1750 Sunderland of 230 Squadron made no report up till despatch of this summary. 1324-1655 Glen Martin of 231 Flight nothing to report. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q., R.A.F Malta 1720/1)

/Enemy Intelligence.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Intelligence

Your 1116/26 to C. in C., Mediterranean (reported drowning of 50,000 German troops in attempt to invade England (See 27/9)) What is your source? Para (e) should not be graded higher than C.O. Impossible for source in Yugoslavia to estimate probability of happenings Channel Ports. (D.N.I. 1505/1 to N.A. Belgrade)

U-Boat Destroyed

Operational summary No 113, ending 1200/1 30/9. 1 Sunderland 230 Squadron searched for enemy submarine reported at 0230 hours in position 31° 35' N., 28° 43' E., Submarine located in daylight and sunk. Majority of crew captured by British destroyer. Request this information be withheld from press publication. 15 C.R. 42's intercepted 113 Squadron on return journey 60 miles off Tobruk. 3 C.R. 42's shot down confirmed. 1 Blenheim with crew of 3 shot down.

Enemy Convoy

1330 hours,113 Squadron recco Bomba area. Enemy convoy consisting 3 medium, 7 large ships with coastal motor boats moving South East between Bomba and Tobruk. 5 S. 79's observed flying low over sea 22 miles West Barrani probably laying mines Naval authorities informed. 1935 hours. 6 Blenheims 211 Squadron despatched attack convoy reported by 113 Squadron failed to locate it and attacked alternative target Tobruk Harbour. Large fires started with thick black smoke. Bows of 1 battleship believed hit. A.A.heavy. One aircraft damaged but all returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1123/1)

East Indies

ESPERANCE

Detained at Aden. (See Operations Against Vichy French)

CLAN CAMPBELL

Admty, 0023/29. KANIMBLA to escort from Durban to Aden. (. in C., E.I. 12322/1)

Gun-running Red Sea

Governor Aden's No 482 to Colonial Office. EL WAFI due Aden from patrol 2/10. If report shows that her captures have not deterred trade, propose asking Governor Aden to inform Imam that Yemeni Dhows carrying cargoes Italian East Africa will be sunk, and to implement this warning by sinkin a few as an example provided that

/(A).....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Gun-running Red Sea, Contd.

(A) their position shows clearly that they are not in Arabic Coast Trade
(B) they are outside 10 mile limit from Yemeni Coast
(c) their crews are rescued.
(C. in C., E.I., 1616/1)

China

French Ports Shipping

Cancel my 0514/18/7 and substitute following: Arrangements British and Allied shipping wishing to trade with French colonial ports are in force.
1. China Station. Normal trading
2. East Indies Station. Ships may call at unfriendly ports in India but not Madagascar, Reunion or Djibouti.
3. Australian Station. Trade suspended.
5. Ports in Atlantic. Trade generally prohibited except with French Cameroons and vessels will be required to call at Cape or Panama for instructions. Sailings to be reported. (C. in C., China, 09112/1)

ATHELKING Overdue

C. in C., E.I. 1016/9. ATHELKING for Sourabaya 28/9 not arrived. (S.O.I. Singapore, 08452/1)

French Cargoes

My 0430/30. Confirmed ship carrying cargo of coal to Madagascar. Possible coal is to enable LINOIS return Indo-China. Admiral Terraux, while refusing to divulge destination stated British interests not involved.
Had previously explained to him contents of your 0911/13 and your 0909/13.
Rumoured another ship is loading at Haiphong (? for Marseilles) endeavouring to confirm.
Suggest such cases are not in accordance with understanding that Indo-China would conform with British shipping control regulations outside China Station. (L.O. Saigon 0300/1)

French Evacuations

Admty. 1732/28. Request consideration be given to transfer of men to French Indo China as there appears no liklihood of neutral vessels being available to repatriate them to France.
Para. four. No, but possibility exists if and when they are told that return to France is impossible. (C. in C., China 05472/1)

De Gaulle.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1930
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd.

De Gaulle Movement Indo-China

Suggesting M. de Shompre ex French Vice-Consul, Tientsin, could lead De Gaulle movement in Indo-China. Leaves today in VICEROY OF INDIA. (C. in C., China, 1036Z/1

Enemy Unit

Your 0433/1. Time mentioned in Admty. 2020/26 is B.S.T. (D.D.I.C. 2016/1)

America & West Indies

Japanese Shipping

Port Limon reports in Punta Areanas Costa Rica that Japan is purchasing German and Italian ships at ports in this hemisphere for trade from and to Russia. (C. 2) (S.O.I. Kingston, 1725/1)

ARAUCA

A.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1947/30. No ship available to intercept before 9/10. Can you take action through U.S. Authorities to prevent ship sailing. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1122/1) (See Also German Merchant Ships)

2nd. Town Flotilla
KALK
MADDOX

KALK and MADDOX damaged in collision whilst proceeding alongside Oiler at St. John's Newfoundland. Am awaiting further information. Remaining six ships 2nd Town Flotilla expected to sail from St. John's a.m. 2/10. S.O. HOPEWELL. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 2259/1)

Australia

STUART

Informing A.C.N.B. of sinking of Italian Submarine by STUART 0925/30. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria's report.) (Hd. of M. 1706/1)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BARENFELS — Reported under repair at Bergen after air raid damage. (D.S. 392)

WINNETOU — Description (A.1) from BRITISH MASTER (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 10332/1)

Reported (A.2) that instructions given for following ships to carry out running repairs to maintain seaworthiness and enable them to sail at any time. Repairs requiring docking are to be referred to Hamburg. (D.S.393)

MUNSTERLAND, BURGENLAND, ERMLAND, KULMERLAND — at Kobe
HAVELLAND, ODENWALD — at Yokohama
RAMSES — at Shanghai
RHEIN — at Tampico
DUISBERG, LEVERKUSEN, PREUSSEN — at Venice
OLIVA — at Massawa
RUHR — at Trieste
TIRPITZ — at Malaga
FRIESLAND — at Paita, Peru

TIRPITZ at Malaga completed bunkering on 27th September (D.S. 393)

ANTARKTIS at Vigo embarked 2 ten-ton lorry loads of cases, all similar, received by road on 17th September (D.S. 393)

ARAUCA at Port Everglades, Florida. Anonymous and unconfirmed report received that ship was released from attachment on 30/9 and may sail at any time (D.S. 393) (See America & West Indies)

My 2103/30 Jacksonville reports signs of activity. Salient features of ARAUCA. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2046/1)

LARISSA — Left for Russia, arriving 3/10. (Galatz, 1705/1)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BALENA etc. — My 1203/26. 3 Italian trawlers sailed from Vigo 0630/1. (Consul, Vigo, 1121/1)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

HIGHLAND PATRIOT — British 14,172 tons. torpedoed 52° N., 19° W., now in boats (Lands End Radio 0717/1, 0812/1) WELLINGTON to investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 0841/1) Tugs, SCHELDE and SEAMAN to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0910/1) Cancel my 0910 Amended instructions to SALVONIA, SCHELDE and SEAMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1025/1) Sank, 52.13N 19.04 W., Master and 135 of crew and 33 passengers on board WELLINGTON. 3 of crew missing. 2 serious casualties. An sweeping towards O.B. 220 until dark, then proceeding destinatination. (WELLINGTON 1213/1)

Unknown ship torpedoed in 52° N., 19° W at 0732/1 (D.D.I.C. 0920/1)

LARRINAGA } — Probably torpedoed in about 58.30 N., 16.10 W., during the nighte 6-7/9. (D.S. 392)
NEPTUNIAN }

MONTE MONCAYO (Torpedoed 28/9) — Spanish 4291 tons. Torpedoed and probably sunk 8' south of Sardinia by an Italian submarine on 28/9. 4 killed. (D.O.R.. 2/10)

Submarines Reported

0220 — 54° to 55° N., W. of 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 391)

1037 — 54° N., 17° to 19° W., position indefinite (D.S. 392)

1750 — WELLINGTON pass to YORKWOOD. U-Boat reported in position 52° 00' N., 21° 00' W., probably shadowing you and may have reported you to U-Boat in 35° 00' N 25° 00' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1750/1)

Estimated Dispositions

Italian- 1 between Gibraltar and Azores
German:- 1 in 52° N. 19° W., at 0817/1
1 in about 54° N., 18° W., at 1037/1
1 about 54° to 55° N., and west of 20° W at 0220/1.
Possible 1 still further W.
2 or possibly 3 in N.W. Approached of which 1 was in about 57° 30' N., 15° W., at 1209/30: Whereabouts of others unknown.
Possibly French. 2 about 24° 30' N., 16° 20' W. at 0925/29. Course South.
(D.D.I.C. 1323/1)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.10.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGH

Submarines Attacked

1515 SCIMITAR and PERIWINKLE attacked contact in position 055° 50' N., 007° 28' W., PERIWINKLE remaining in this position. S Sonic telegraphy signals were heard by H.M.S. GERANIUM also with convoy H.X. 74 at about this time. Convoy was not attacked. (WINCHELSEA 1515/1) Probably wreck of NEW SEVILLA (D.S. 393)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

BRILLIANT, BEAGLE and BULLDOG of the 1st D.F. (Portsmouth Command) proceeded to Rosyth today to join C. in C., Home Fleet as part of the redistribution of destroyers. (See 30/9)

DESPATCH, GARLAND, KELVIN and JAGUAR carried out a sweep off the French Coast from Ushant to Roches Douvres last night.

C.W. & C.E. Convoys- Cover

C. in C., Portsmouth points out that with the presence of enemy destroyers and T.B's in the Channel the necessity of providing C.W. and C.E. Convoys with a destroyer cover must be considered.

Destroyers

C. in C., Nore urges the normal refit programme should commence again at an early date, as it is undesirable to commence the winter with an accumulation of ships awaiting refit. He suggests that immediately the U.S.A. destroyers become ready for service they should be regarded as replacements for those refitting.

C. in C., Portsmouth reports that he has only 8 destroyers, only 4 of which are available for the patrols on alternate nights in the Channel. During these patrols, the Ships companies have to be closed up at action stations for 16 hours, and there will be a loss of efficiency due to fatique if these four destroyers carry out the patrol every other night. He also wishes to link these patrols with the "Volcano" and "Deluge" signals, in order to rest the personnel as much as possible.

The 2nd Town Flotilla sailed from St. John's today, except two vessels delayed by collision damage.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on the channel ports and gun positions, though fewer aircraft are now being employed on this duty, than during September.

3 Ansons detailed to attack barge concentrations between Isle le Bas and Brest failed to locate the target.

Enemy Air Activity

No Naval damage was caused when Dover was raided this morning.

A single plane attacked Mere Oil Fuel Depot (Portland) this morning and dropped a bomb which failed to explode.

CURACOA reports that Convoy H.X. 94 A was attacked East of Buchan Ness this evening by two torpedo aircraft, both of which fired torpedoes which missed. Fighter aircraft shot down one of the enemy and badly damaged another.

VANITY and Convoy F.S. 97 were unsuccessfully attacked late this evening near the Humber.

Fighter aircraft shot down one enemy machine.

SS LATYMER, straggler from H.G. 44 was bombed 25 miles off Bantry Bay at 1238/2. No damage is reported.

Mining

Some minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary last night is suspected.

Four Hampdens successfully laid mines in the Gironde Estuary.

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Blenheims today made ~~four~~ five raids on Assab obtaining direct hits on jetty and sheds.

China

Wei-Hai-Wei

The Japanese have landed about 60 men at Wei-Hai-Wei, and although they have not yet infringed British property, have announced their decision, now that the original agreement with China has expired not to recognise its renewal but to take over the territory. Japanese Naval Authorities have decided to administer Liu Island as from 1000/1. About 300 men of the Chinese Navy landed at Wei-Hai-Wei p.m./2.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French.

C.S.I. in DEVONSHIRE left Freetown this afternoon for Duala with FURY, FORESIGHT, French escort ships COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE, transports WESTERNLAND and PENTLAND with De Gaulle's force.

Mediterranean

Air Attacks on Fleet 29/9-2/10

C. in C., Med. reports that during the operations of passing reinforcements to Malta 29/9-2/10 attacks were made with bombs and torpedoes by enemy aircraft on our fleet, which however sustained no damage. Four enemy aircraft were shot down. Three Fulmars force landed.

Second Submarine Sunk

In addition to the submarine sunk by STUART on her way back to Alexandria 30/9 with a burst steam pipe HAVOCK and HASTY also sank a submarine at 0730/2 in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Convoy A.N. 4.

During the operation of passing reinforcements to Malta CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers covered the passage of convoy A.N. 4. to Piraeus. The Convoy was shadowed but not bombed.

Air Reconnaissance Inadequate

At 1126/30 aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS sighted 7 cruisers and 7 destroyers about 100 miles to northward of the Fleet, followed by a report bringing the enemy's force to 4 or 5 battleships, 11 cruisers and 17 destroyers. The fact the enemy was discovered by fleet air reconnaissance 100 miles from our fleet before there was any inkling of their presence emphasises the inadequate scale of our shore based air reconnaissance in the Central Mediterranean.

MOST SECRET

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signal — At 0300/2. (D.C.0250/2) At 1400/2. (D.C.1447/2)

Manchester Canal — Ministry of Transport support suggestion in A/M.1933/27 as to defence of Eastham Lock. (Air Ministry 1430/2 to Fighter Command)

Policy

INGLEFIELD) KEPPEL) — FOCNA 1746/1. I require INGLEFIELD in Home Fleet. FOCNA can have KEPPEL back as Captain D.12 has gone ashore. (C.in C. HF.1005/2 to Admiralty)

Patrol Vessels passing as Hospital Ships — Your 1600/1. All such Ships whatever their markings should be destroyed in accordance with my 1218/21, except German Hospital Ships exempted by AFO.3356/40. (ACNS.H.1232/2 to C.in C. Nore).

Limits of W.A. and Plymouth Commands — Following are proposed new Station Limits for a WA. Command based on Liverpool and a Plymouth Command based on Plymouth. Request your views. (VCNS.1532/2 to C.in C. WA).

Anti-Invasion Patrol — Dover 1301/1. Portsmouth destroyers are carrying out the patrol you requested tonight but I fear that it will not be possible to continue this routine. Portsmouth Destroyer Force is today 8 HUNT Class, 3 V's, and 3 S's. HUNTS are employed on convoy escort duty and, allowing for boiler cleaning and escort for M/V groups to Dartmouth, only 4 destroyers remain for other services. The patrol is a 16 hour one during which companies must be closed up at action stations continuously and there will be loss of efficiency due to fatigue if these 4 destroyers carry out this patrol every other night.

The primary duty for the destroyers is anti-invasion force, and as proposed patrol takes available Portsmouth destroyers to the Eastern end of the command the Western area is from the invasion aspect left exposed during the patrol.

I therefore suggest that either 2 destroyers carry out the proposed patrol every other night or alternatively all 4 destroyers carry out the patrol every 4th night. The latter has the advantage

/that.....

HOME COMMANDS

Policy (continued)

Anti-Invasion Patrol (continued)

that any attack will be made in force.

I also wish to link this patrol with the Volcano Deluge Signals so as to rest the personnel when possible. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1727/2 to VA. Dover)

My 1727/2. With Enemy TB's and Destroyers in the Channel Area, the necessity of providing CW. and CE. Convoys with a Destroyer Cover must be considered. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1933/2 to Admiralty).

Convoys in Moray Firth Area

Analysis of recent air attacks on convoys in the Moray Firth area shows that the critical hour for attack is about one hout after sunset. Suggested you try the experiment of adjusting times of sailing and speed of convoys so that at this critical time they are in the immediate neighbourhood of Wick or Dyce when the maximum fighter protection would be available if conditions of light allow. Whether Wick or Dyce are selected would depend to some extent on the tide in the Pentland Firth. (ACOS 1923/2 to C.in C. WA).

Destroyers. Proposed resumption of Normal Refit Programme

This resumption seems desirable if accumulation of Ships awaiting refit is to be avoided at the beginning of winter. (C.in C. Nore 1944/30 to Admiralty).

Movements

EGRET

Expect arrive 20.C.Buoy 2300. (EGRET 0742/2 to C.in C. Rosyth).

CONQUEROR

Your 0415. Arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0816/2 to FOIC. Portland).

Portsmouth

Movements for Night 2/3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1947/2).

Orfasays

Movements for Night 2/3. (FOCOS.1531/2)
Trawler Lines (ACOS.1536/2)

HASTINGS
LOWESTOFT

My 0517/1/9. HASTINGS joined Northern Escort Force.
LOWESTOFT returned to Rosyth Escort Force.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1695/2 to C.in C.WA)

MOST SECRET

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (continued)

ARK ROYAL)
ARGUS
AUSTRALIA)

My 2311/25/9. ARK ROYAL to proceed to Liverpool for docking, short refit, and leave; and to be ready to sail from Liverpool 26/10 to rejoin Force H. ARGUS and AUSTRALIA to proceed to Clyde. (1st SL.1926/2 to C.in C.WA)

CAIRO

My 2303/28. Will sail to arrive Clyde AM/6. (C.in C.HF.1938/2 to C.in C.WA)

Dover

Patrols for Night 2/3. (VA. Dover 1536/2).

Operations

Operation LUCID

Paragraph II. Intend to allocate Destroyers as follows: Force A, 4 of 21st D.F.; Force B, 4 of 21st D.F.; Force C, 8 of 16th D.F. Minesweepers as follows: Force A, SUTTON, SALAMANDER, SELKIRK; Force B, SPEEDWELL, ELGIN, HUSSAR. M.T.B.'s and M.L.'s will be allocated on arrival. (C.in C. Nore 1110/2 to Admiralty).

Paragraph II. Destroyers are allocated as follows: Force A, D.21 in CAMPBELL (50 of Force A), WALPOLE, MACKAY, CATTISTOCK; Force B, HAMBLEDON (Captain in charge of Operation and 50 Force B), GARTH, VENETIA, WITCH; Force C, MALCOLM (50 D.16) WIVERN, VERITY. M.T.B.'s 31 and 32 and 2 M.L.'s to Force A, and M.T.B.'s 34 and 35 and 2 M.L.'s to Force B. OAKFIELD and WAR NIZAM will exchange duties. WAR BAHADUR will not take part. (C.in C. Nore 2118/2 to Admiralty).

Following are times of passing Garrison Point on 5/10. (C.in C. Nore 2224/2)

Force C to sail in time to pass North Goodwin L.V. at 1915/5 and then comply with Admiralty Operation Order, paragraphs 28 and 29, attacking any Shipping found in the Roads. Route. Return Harwich by Gap E. (C.in C. Nore 2240/2 to D.16).

Talk both reported and overheard among liberty men returning on board destroyer tonight Wednesday stated Ostend was to be bombarded by cruisers and destroyers to cover sending in of fire ships tomorrow Thursday night. It seems certain this has been reported on shore. (Captain D.16. 2246/2 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET

2.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation LUCID. Contd.

D. 16's 2246/2. Consider this unavoidable after cancellation of previous operation about which ships companies were told when at sea and due to inference from similar dispositions now being made. (C. in C. Nore 0006/3 to Adty.)

Anti-Invasion Patrol

VANOC, SARDONYX, and STURDY patrol Eastward to No.10 Buoy and may proceed southward as far as 50° 5' N. Due at Lydd Light Float 2140/2 from Westward to patrol off Dover. (C. in C. Nore 1340/2 and C. in C. Portsmouth 1533/2).

Iceland.

R.A.F. Personnel and 250 A.M.P. await return to U.K. Flooding of R.A.F. Base makes their early return essential. Could the small Personnel Ship be sent with ST. CLAIR convoy and return escorted by LORD AUSTIN and LORD MIDDLETON. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1600/2 to Adty.)

Projected Operation with FURIOUS

Adty. Message 2344/30 (See Mediterranean). It has now been decided to postpone the operation until ARK ROYAL is completed. (D.O.D.F. 1830/2 to C. in C. H.F.).

Operation ACTIVE

Operation not to be at sea on Night 3/4. (C. in C. Nore 2108/2 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

Submarines

O.24.

Expects arrive Dundee 0730. (C. in C. Rosyth 0910/2 to Adty.)

TRIDENT.

Enter Patrol area. (Capt. S.2. 1416/2 to TRIDENT.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/3. (V.A.S. 1728/2).

Area H.L.

Will be unavoidably vacated from P.M./05 to P.M./9. (V.A.S. 2247/2 to C. in C. Nore).

TALISMAN

C. in C. W.A. 1023/2. My 1731/20. Proceeding unescorted and may not reach R/V in time. Request R/U be altered to 090 Lizard 10 miles at 0730/3. (S.S. 1331/2 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity.

Off Ushant. Between 0640 and 0655/2, aircraft attacked Barges and M/V's. (St. Eval 1035/2 to H.Q. 15 Group).

Off Texel. At 1250/2 in 53° 10' N. 3° 26' E., aircraft bombed a Vessel of 800 tons with Red Crosses on funnel and Deck. Bomb fell 50 yards short. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0130/3 to H.Q.C.C.).

Enemy Air Activity.

VIVIEN. Your 1834/1. Aircraft was Junkers 88. Report has been sent to Capt. DREF. No doubt that correct Identification Letter, S, was flashed by aircraft. (VIVIEN 0930/2 to Adty.).

Nore O.P. Depot. At 0837/2 one aircraft dropped 4 Bombs, 3 in sea and on beach, one unexploded between 19 and 21 Tanks. No damage yet. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1243/2 to Adty.)

Dover, bombed and shelled. At 1134/2, 8 H.E. Bombs fell. 6 small in Town, demolishing some houses and wounding 7 civilians; one large in Town, unexploded; and one small near Langdon Barracks, No damage or casualties. At 1633 one presumed Shell fell in harbour. No damage or casualties.(V.A. Dover 1754/2 to Adty.).

Convoy JUMBO Attacked by 2 Torpedo aircraft in 57°26'N. 1°36'W. One aircraft shot down by Fighter. Both fired Torpedoes, which missed. (CURACOA 1931/2 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

VANITY Aircraft heard. 2 Flares, 1 Bomb. Missed. (VANITY 2225/2).

MOST SECRET

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Thames Estuary — 2 Red Mines detonated by Sweepers during Night 1/2; one in 51° 30.4'N. 1°4.7'E. (C. in C. Nore 1007/2 to Adty.)

Off Yarmouth — Report received that 6 Magnetic Mines detonated in 52°41'N. 2°11'E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1507/2 to Adty.) 2 trawlers pulsing for Red Mines detonated 3 between sweeps, 2 off starboard bow, and 1 off port bow all within few seconds of one another. No aircraft in sight, and explosions reported to be more like Mines than Bombs. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1645/2 to Adty.)

R.A.F. Uxbridge report possible Minelaying Falmouth remains closed.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2100/2 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Lorient — TRIBUNE reports many Armed Trawlers in Ile de Groix area may be assisted by Motor Fishing Vessels; and dazzle-painted Trawlers in company entered Lorient 28/9. Numerous steam, motor and sailing vessels in area are burning to-day.
(Capt. S.2. 0744/2 to TRIDENT, TIGRIS).

Barges between Morlaix and Ushant — Reported on 1/10. Now believed to be Tunny Boats. (H.Q.C.C. Received 1800 to Adty.)

Brest to Cherbourg. — Numbers of Fishing Craft at Ile Molene, Kersaint, and other harbours at 1505/2.
(15 Group H.Q. 1820/2 to H.Q.C.C.)
(H.Q.C.C. Plymouth 2055/2 to 15 Group).

Off Cape Barfleur. — At 1430 in 49°32'N. 1°9'W. four M/V's of 3000 tons and one Flak Ship steering Northerly at 8 knots. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1830/2).

Port En-Bessin. — At 1440/2, 25 M/V's about 150 tons and one Hospital Ship in harbour. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1830/2).

MOST SECRET.

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

RETAKO — Fleet Minesweeper BRITOMART and L.L. Trawler RETAKO in collison A.M./1. RETAKO damaged above waterline but remaining in service till 6/10 when repairs will take 14 days. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1250/2 to Adty.)

FORESIGHT. — Now seaworthy, but her W/T and A/S are out of action and cannot be repaired at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1055 M/2 to Adty.)

KALK, HADDOX — Second TOWN Flotilla sailed 1330 G.M.T. to-day, except KALK and HADDOX delayed by collision damage. (N.O.I.C. St. John's 1140/2 to R.A. 3 B.S.). F.O.C. 3 B.S. with Eng. Captain has gone by air to St. John's, N.F. to investigate damage which involves propeller in both ships. Dry dock at St. John's not available for some weeks. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1432/2 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys.

Shipping

H.X. 75	Meet. Route. (C.-in-C.W.A. 0920/2, (amended 1300/2) and 1040/2).
O.B. 223.	SCIMITAR and 2 A/S trawlers to join. (C.-in-C. W.A. 1129/2).
H.G. 44.	Route. (C. in C. W.A. 1120/2).
O.B. 225.	Route. (D.T.D., 1111/2)
O.A. 225.	Route. (D.T.D., 1112/2)
S.L. 51.	Escort and route. (C.in C. S.A. 1133/2)
C.E.12.	Request fighter protection (C.in C. Nore 2116/2).
H.X. 74A	Time of arrival Kinnaird Head. HIBISCUS has rejoined. (ABERDEEN, 1042/2)
S.L. 48.	To alter course (C. in C. W.A. 1830/2).
H.G.45.	To embark Gibraltar refugees. (V.C.N.S. 2300/2) (See North Atlantic).
H.X. 73.	On time at R.V. all ships. DALVREN sunk and QUEEN CITY damaged by aircraft off Kinnaird Head. (D.T.D. 1906/2).
H.X. 77.	EMPIRE AUDACITY carrying aeroplanes and rifles. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1432/1). Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1101/1).
O.A. 223.	Details (N.C.S.O. Methil. 1216/2).
Dispersal Dates.	Now uncertain. Suggestion for onward routeing. (D.T.D. 1904/2).

Troop Convoys.

W.S. 3.	My 1448/1. Delayed 12 hours. Amend R.V. for SHEFFIELD, VERSATILE, WITHERINGTON, VISCOUNT and VIMY. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1205/2) Ocean escort (see South Atlantic).
W.S. 4.	(See South Atlantic).
U.S.S.	Route. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0914 Z/2).
Iceland.	(add separate sheet)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Troop Convoys.

CANADA
SPHINX

Shipping.

French hospital ships, position and course (F/B K. 5909, 1800/2, 1815/2).

EDOUARD ANSALE.

Belgian trawler. Requesting if Admty 1351/19/6, detention of Belgian ships, is still in force. This vessel fishing off S.W. Coast (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1235/2) Admty. 1351/19/6 was amended by A.M. 1358/3/7 - "this order no longer applies to Belgian fishing vessels." (D.T.D., 1610/3).

Iceland.

M.T. Ship BLACKHEATH loading Glasgow and accommodation ship ST. CLAIR to be sailed from Clyde to Stornoway in Convoy W.N. 21. A/S trawlers WHITEHORN, WISTARIA, ELM and HAZEL are to be sailed from Aberdeen so as to arrive Stornoway on 8th October, to escort BLACKHEATH and ST. CLAIR to Reykjavik. (D.O.D. (H) 1946/1.)

MOST SECRET

2.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

BARHAM — Damage. Dockyard assistance required for repairs to catapult. (C. in C., S.A., 1501/2)

Duala — My 1925/30. (No trace War Registry 1815/1 and 1407/30 from C. in C., South Atlantic refer) Transfer of troops approximately 2,000 will take place at Ambas Bay, Victoria. Request you charter or requisition CALABAR and any available ships suitable for purpose of transport to Duala as well as necessary number of tugs and lighters (date)CORNWALL pass to N.C.S.O. Duala. (C. in C., S.A., 0001H/2 to Govr. Lagos for D. of Nigerian M.)

Your 1913/27 General situation not much changed since DELHI's visit in September Suggest for consideration that CORNWALL's object vide Admty 1912/26 has ceased to exist. (CORNWALL 1545/2 to C. in C., S.A.)

Azores Air Search — Subject to ARK ROYAL not being delayed at A/S rendezvous, air search to be carried out on line Azores to Finisterre, to identify shipping approaching Azores. Force in S.O.I. Gib. 1057/1 was Spanish and arrived Marin 30/9. (D.O.D. (F) to ARK ROYAL, 1836/2)

Force for Duala — Departure 1700/Z, C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE, FURY, FORESIGHT. French escort ships COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE, with transports WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2005/2)

French Submarines — In view of ARK ROYAL's 1055/1, can you confirm reported movements of French submarines in your 1402/26. (D.D.I.C. to F.O.C.N.A. 1703/2)

ARK ROYAL — Your 1521/29. Leave to be planned on assumption that ARK ROYAL's stay in U.K. will be 14 days only. (D.N.A.D. to ARK ROYAL 1720/2)

French Africa — Situation report No 27. Vichy warns Morocco against eventual arrival of General Catroux. (D.N.I. to S.O. Force M.,etc., 1822/2)

/Dakar.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Dakar Situation	Message for Gen. Ismay from Spears on Dakar morale and reactions to bombardment (C. in C., S.A., 1408/2)
RENOWN	Pending further instructions, RENOWN not to be sighted from Azores, and destroyers to be sighted as little as possible. (V.C.N.S., to V.A.Force H., 1357/2)
DEVONSHIRE for Duala	Intend sailing 1600N/2 Route, thence to Ambas Bay or Cameroons River. (F.O.C. I.C.S 1031/2)
French Prisoners	Youre 2214/1. As De Gaulles's force is sailing for Duala at 1630 today, propose these prisoners be sent to U.K. in PRETORIA CASTLE sailing early a.m/3. No accommodation available ashore at Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1303/2)
	My 2214 H.M.G. have decided that proposal made by De Gaulle should be accepted. An endeavour should be made to arrange exchange with Dakar before BARHAM sailes otherwise they should be sent to Gibraltar in BARHAM. (D.O.D.(F) 2202/2)
SHEFFIELD	On relief by CUMBERLAND to rejoin Force H (D.O.D. (F) 2010/2)
Flying Boat Lost	Following information from English Officer who left Casablanca 27/9. British Flying Boat was brought down by three French Fighters three of crew safe at Rabat two killed. Information received from French Airmen and believed correct. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1811/2)
"Alloy" and "Shrapnel"	Readjustments. Suggesting sending "Alloy" Gibraltar to meet A and S.H. ship. (G.O.C. Force A. Sierra Leone to W,O,m 1800/2)
Force For Duala	F.O.C. ICS in DEVONSHIRE, three destroyers WESTERNLAND, PENNALAND with de Gaulle Force French Sloop SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA and two French Sloops expect to arrive Victoria daylight 7/10. Nigeria Marine are arranging ships for transport of troops to Duala and attendant vessels to assist transfer M.T. convoy of five vessels

/Maximum.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Force for Duala, Contd.

maximum draught 18 feet with DELHI, DRAGON MILFORD, TURCOMAN and SS PRESIDENT HOUDUCE sailes from Freetown 0800/3. Route. On arrival of DEVONSHIRE at Duala proceed as directed by C.S. 1. to take over escort of M.T. Convoy from D. Class.
(C. in C., S.A., 2247N/2 to CORNWALL)

North Atlantic

Lisbon Evacuation RENE PAUL

Following arrangements made with Belgium Authorities Lisbon subject to your approval. Belgium Authorities state urgent that they keep the ships at Lisbon in case of evacuation. As Belgian ship RENE PAUL, 499 tons, is at present unfit for service have nominated her for evacuation duties after docking and repairs. After she is fit for service half of her capacity to be reserved to British Government and half expense to be paid by British Government and RENE PAUL to be under control of N.C.S.O. Lisbon.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1827/2 to Admty.)

Ditto NEURALIA

Your 1050/2 and Admty 1219/2. NEURALIA's move to and from Lisbon to be hastened as much as possible.
On her return she is required to embark women and children evacuees from Gibraltar and to sail for Jamaica with H.G. 45, parting company after leaving A/S escort.
Poles and Britishers brought from Lisbon are to be embarked in ships of H.G. 45 as far as practicable, preference being given to airmen.
Remainder if any must be retained at Gibraltar to await next opportunity of onward passage.
Request report of number of evacuees embarked in NEURALIA and number remaining.
(V.C.N.S.2300/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LLANGOLLEN

My 1656. LLANGOLLEN should be released
(D.T.S.D. 1946/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

ARK ROYAL — Are you in touch with ARK ROYAL? (1st S.L. to C. in C., S.A., 0854/2) Nothing from ARK ROYAL, but following from Greyhound. Escort detached (position) (C. in C., S.A. 0805N/2)

RESOLUTION — Asking for early report of damage and forecast of sailing date. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A., 0232/2)

A.P. 3. — Reply to C. in C., S.A., 2125/23 re suppliers of fuel and water. Except DOMINION MONARCH, no vessel should have required replenishment Freetown. (D. of S.T., 1117/2)

MOOLTAN
DUNOTTAR CASTLE
ALCANTARA — My 2313N/30. Owing to delay in arrival MOOLTAN and DUNOTTAR CASTLE, ALCANTARA will escort Convoy S.L. 51. Request confirmation whether ALCANTAR can be taken in hand for docking and repairs on arrival U.K. approx. 1/11 and whether route S.L. 51 will be similar to S.L. 50 thus necessitating sailing convoy two days early. (C. in C., S.A., 1133/2 to Adty., 1135/2 to ALCANTARA)

W.S. 3.
W.S. 4. — Admty, 1500/27/9, 1728/1/40 and 0231/2/10
Ocean escort to be provided as follows:
CUMBERLAND to relieve SHEFFIELD with W.S. 3 slow on 9/10 escorting them to Capetown.
DORSETSHIRE to relieve KENYA on arrival of W.S. 3. fast at Freetown.
DORSETSHIRE will be available to escort either group of W.S. 3. to Aden, or, should C. in C., East Indies be unable to provide escort for the other group, DORSETSHIRE could escort both groups together.
On arrival at Aden DORSETSHIRE to proceed as required by C. in C., S.A.
Anticipated that W.S. 4. will leave U.K. early in November. (D.O.D.(F) 1957/2)

CUMBERLAND — To be repaired at Cape. (D.O.D.(F) 2061/2

/FORESIGHT.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

FOXSIGHT — Now seaworthy, but W/T and A/S out of action and cannot be repaired in Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1055N/2)

A.P. 3.
CANTON
CARNARVON CASTLE
CARTHAGE — C. in C., E.I., 0812/29. R.V. for CARTHAGE with A.P. 3. Route. CANTON will rejoin as escort. After CARTHAGE has taken over convoy, CANTON and CARNARVON CASTLE will return to Simonstown and Capetown to Fuel. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1420Z/2)

Suspicious Ship — R.O. Ascension's 1230/1. Ship cannot be accounted for here. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0754/2)

Mediterranean

Stores, Malta. — Re shipment in merchant ship to run through Western Mediterranean. (Govr. Malta, 1836/2)

Operations 29/9-2/10 — Intend issuing the following press communique tomorrow: During the period 29/9-2/10 while our Naval Forces were covering certain operations in the central Mediterranean and Aegean the Italian Fleet was located proceeding towards its base but too far away for contact to be made. Attacks were made by enemy aircraft on our Fleet which however sustained no damage. Four enemy aircraft were shot down. (C. in C., Med, 1540/2)

Submarines — Under consideration to send 4 small submarines to Mediterranean to be operated from Malta in near future, request proposals. (V.C.N.S., to V.A.S., 1312/2)

Air Raid Reports — To be circulated by Air Ministry (V.A.Malta 1703/2)

French Ships — ATHOS II DJENNE FLORIDA Cologne Marseilles 3/10 for Beirut may be allowed to pass to Beirut. If met by surface vessels they may be boarded for verification. It has been guaranteed they will carry neither cargo nor military equipment. (C. in C., Med 2225/2)

/Air Summary.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air Summary, Malta

H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 1114/2. No naval incidents Malta Air Intelligence reports to 1800/2. Ionian Sea reconnaissance and to Corfu. No incidents. No air activity over Malta today. (H.C. Malta, 1610/2)

Operations 29/9-2/10

Completed. Report (C. in C., Med., 1259/2)

Enemy Intelligence

Your 1505/1. Source Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs and General Staff. (M.A., Belgrade, 1215/2)

East Indies

Air Patrols

A.M. 2237/29 and 1235/30. Necessity of maintaining flow of trade fully realised but present cycle of slow convoys with intermediate fast convoys absorbs whole of Red Sea Force (my 1528/29/8) No additional slow trade convoy can therefore be accepted at present. As regards unprotected independent sailings, consider these would be imprudent as a general rule so long as air and submarine threats remain c.f. ATLAS, EL HAK and VELHO. In special cases, a few independent sailings in ballast have been allowed when some cover in most dangerous area was available from B.N. and B.S. Convoys but I do not recommend this procedure for ships carrying urgent and valuable commercial cargo. There were 18 attacks on shipping in Red Sea during September. (C. in C., E.I., 1144Z/2)

CAP VARELLA

Re 005/2 from Admiralty assume undertaking given in 2050/13/9 from Admiralty no longer holds. If ship is met with intended to send her into British port under armed guard for contraband control. (C. in C., E.I., 1456Z/2)

4 Assab Raids

Intelligence Summary No 114 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 2/10. Four raids Assab, 2 Blenheims Indian Wing attacked Naval Barracks and oil tanks. 0330 hit one building in Barracks results on tanks not observed. 3 Blenheims 8 Sqdn. attacked sheds by North jetty 0805 scoring direct hit onjetty and sheds, 3 more attacked and hit buildings West of sheds 0707, 2 Blenheims India Wing attacked underground fuel storage doing no damage.

/1 Blenheim.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

4 Assab Raids. Contd.

1 Blenheim 203 Sqdn. photographic reconnaissance Jibuti 0840, Tanoer still anchored entrance harbour, Five Gladiators 94 Sqdn. standing Fighter patrol Aden 0800 to 1200. All times G.M.T. No casualties. (A.H.Q., Aden 1900/2)

Convoy Escort

Intentions for B.N. 7. U.S. 5., U.S. 5 A, B.N. 8. B.M. 2., S.W.2., W.S.3., A.P. 3., C.M. 4., (C. in C., E.I. 1602Z/2)

CLIVE GRIMSBY

Left Suez 1530Z/2 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 2036/2)

Air Defence India

Appreciation of situation re possible Japanese oppression. (A.H.Q., India to Air Min., 0820/2)

China

Wei-Hai-Wei Withdrawal

Wei Hai Wei telegram 21/1/10. As withdrawal from Wei Hai Wei seems probable, suggest following. Try to withdraw all Naval and Hospital stores furniture and also empty canteen and club including as many engines as possible. Request instructions to this effect including disposal of yard craft. Estimate can count on one month's grace without interference. Local sale would not be effective except it may be possible to dispose of coal. (N.O.I.C., Wei-Hai-Wei 0057Z/2)

Japanese at Wei Hai Hei

Repetition of Wei Hai Wei telegram 18. 29/9 to Embassy, Shanghai. About 300 men of Chinese Navy have landed in island this afternoon (C. in C., China to Admty., 0845/2)
Japanese landed about 60 men, not yet infronged British property. Adm Nomura in AWATE, S.N.O's Shiru and 2 destroyers off Island. (Consul, Singapore, 1305/2)
Japanese intend to take all property loaned under agreement. Notice posted promising not to interfere with our naval employees or intimidate (Consul, Singapore, 1820/2)
Now that British interest have expired, Japanese naval authorities have decided to take over and administer Liu Island from 1000/1 and thereafter to take all necessary measures (Consul, Singapore, 1820/2)

De Gaulle Movement

Reporting an interview with De Schompre (G.S.O. 1., Far East, to W.O., 2034/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

U.S. Destroyers

Dates for further deliveries at Halifax (Hd of M., to R.A. 3. B.S. 1309/2) Suggest you arrange delivery at your convenience of 6 American destroyers for R.C.N. (Hd. of M to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa. 1310/2)

KALK
HADDOX

2nd Town Flotilla sailed 1330 G.M.T. today except for KALK and HADDOX delayed by collision damage. (N.O.I.C. St John's 1140/2) My 2259/1. F.O.C. 3 B.S. and Eng. Capt. Gray investigating damage which involved propeller in both ships. Dry dock at St.John's N.F. not available for some weeks. (F.O. 3. B.S., 1432/2)

SATURNUS

Norwegian, asking for 17,000 gallons lubricating oil at Corpus Christi. Ship not known to Norwegian Mission, New York. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1901/2)

HAKONE MARU

Arrived Bermuda 30/9 Detained by M.E.W. Suggest allowed to proceed. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1901/2)

French Guiana
QUERCY

Following from Colonial Office Addressed British Guiana No 375. My tel 367. Your Tel 387. Message from Gen. de Gaulle for Chandon in substitution of my telegram 362:-
"Impossible to send at present a vessel of Free France to carry our rally in French Guiana. Only solution at present is coup d'etat from within. In view of report of your agent at Cayenne that QUERCY is bringing about 250 fusiliers marins from Martinique, prospects of carrying out successful coup d'etat in immediate future appear unfavourable You should however continue to report to me and inform me when you consider situation ripe"
In connection with sailing of QUERCY H.M. Ambassador at Washington has told U.S. Secretary of State that H.M.G. are naturally perturbed at a French ship sailing from Martinique at a moment of strained relations between the French Government and themselves particularly after it had been understood that the United States would keep control over the movement of French ships in the West Indies. (2250/2 to C. in C., A.W.I)

MOST SECRET.

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HERCULES. K/L/10.	My 1613/21, reported arrival of HERCULES. Santander reports this vessel was really K.L.10 which sailed on following day. (N.A. Madrid 1754/2).
KHAKA	Arrived from Poti with manganese ore. (Galatz, 0109/2).
VLIA	" " " " " "

MOST SECRET.

2.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked

VESTVARD torpedoed 28/9. — Norwegian 4319 tons. Reported by survivors to have been torpedoed, 300' W. of Ireland about 28/9. Sailed in Convoy O.B.218. (D.O.R. 3/10).

MANCHESTER BRIGADE (torpedoed 27/9). — British, 6042 tons, picked up by French Hospital Ship CANADA and landed Gibraltar today. Ship was leading ship in convoy and torpedoed aft at 0004/27, 20 miles North of Ireland sinking in about one minute. Survivors believe that a few others of crew may have been picked up by another ship of same convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1112/2) Commodore's ship of Convoy O.B. 218. (D.S. 394).

KAYESON — British, 4606 tons. SSSS 51.12 N., 24.22 W. (Lands End Radio, 1630/2) O.B. 220 after dispersal. A/S vessels LADY ELSA and BLACKFLY sent to assist. (D.S. 394).

TANGRED — Norwegian, 6094 tons, torpedoed after dispersal of Convoy O.B. 217, probably on 26/9, west of Ireland. Crew reported on Norwegian TRICOLOUR, bound for New York. (D.S. 394).

HABRITON (torpedoed 24/9). — 18 further survivors known to have been picked up by JASON (D.S. 394) Ex Convoy O.A. 218. Torpedoed and sunk 2345/24, 36 hours after convoy dispersed. Position not known. 18 survivors in JASON and 7 rescued by ROCHESTER (D.O.R. 3/10).

Submarines Reported.

0929. — Submarine reported at 0929/2 may be shadowing you. (C.in-C. W.A. 1021/2, to ANTHONY for Commodore).

1330. — 56.59 N., 18.10 W. (B.2) (D.S. 394)

1130 — Periscope reported by fishing vessel WINDFALL 7 miles N. of Lossiemouth moving W.N.W. (B.2). A/P. trawlers investigating. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1345/2, C.in-C. Rosyth 1502/2).

1830 — Submarine surface bearing 350° distance 3 miles course unknown. 38.23 N., 21.36 W. (ARGUS 1630 M/2).

1830 — Periscope reported 58.21 N., 03.07 W. course south (C.4) (A.C.O.S. 1931/2).

1827 — Submarine seen off Sardet Head by Coastguard, Thoumster, 300 yards from shore, periscope only, S.W. direction. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1940/2).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines reported-Contd.

1930 — Submarine reported by one of convoy 56.57 N 18.10 W., Doubtful. Am searching with ARABIS. (ANTHONY 2042/2)

1047/26 — TRIBUNE reports 1047/26 unsuccessfully intercepted one of two 740 ton U-Boats making R.V. with trawler to enter Lorient in 47. 32 N., 3.38 W. (V.A.S. 1003/2)

1419 — 53° N., 21° 22° W., indefinte position (D.S 394)

1610 — 56° N., 21°-23° W., indefinte position (D.S. 394)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — Italian- No further news.
German- 1 in about 52 N., 23° - 25° W., at 1015/2
3 between 52 N and 58 N longitude approx. 20° W.
1 between 55° 30 N. and 56° 30' N., 15° and 17° 30' W., at 0920/2
Possibly 1 Or 2 in N.W. approached between Rockall and Malin Head. Whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1406/2)

Submarines Attacked

0730 Submarine Sunk — HAVOCK and HASTY sank a submarine after a 3 hour hunt at 0730/2 in 32.33 N., 26.09 E (C. in C., Med., 1259/2)

1500 — A/P Trawler FORFEIT reports conning tower of U-Boat near Whistle Boy Cromarty Firth Approached fired 2/3 rounds and estimated 1 hit. dropped 2 depth charges. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1552/2) 57° 43' 30" N., 03° 50' W at 1500 (N.O.I.C. to MATEBELE 2009/2 My 1552/2. Skipper and many witnesses in FORFEIT are absolutely convinced conning tower of U-Boat seen at 1500 in position 57° 42' N., 3° 52' W., Third shot hit at range 3500 yards, oily track seen and 2 D.C dropped. Position buoyed by Dan Buoy in 16 fms. (Grading A.1) (F.O.I.C. Invergordon) MATEBELE tp patrol entrance Cromarty Firth. (R.A.D. H.F. 2331/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

WOOLWICH has sailed in convoy for the Mediterranean.

At 1024 today an unidentified enemy unit probably a surface ship, was located by D/F within 60 miles of Bergen. HOOD, BERWICK NORFOLK and available destroyers at Scapa were brought to short notice for steam. Nothing further eventuated.

Early this afternoon there were indications of enemy activity in the area between the Scillies and Lizard and 30 miles south.

British Air Activity

Weather permitting offensive patrols to attack shipping off the Norwegian and Danish coasts will be carried out as follows On odd days of the month from 59° to Lister Light. Oneeven days from Horns Reef to Lister Light.

3 Sorties of 3 naval aircraft each attacked shipping between Haugesund and Bergen this afternoon. A ship of 4000 to 5000 tons alongside at Haugesund was hit by at least 2 250 lb bombs and several with 20 lb bombs. The ship was last seen heavily on fire. A 2000 ton ship in Bjorne Fiord was hit several times and is believed to have been sunk. One Skua was shot down and 2 others were damaged.

Weather conditions last night adversely affected operations. TIRPITZ was attacked in Wilhelmshaven Docks, and the Docks at Bremerhaven and Hamburg were also attacked, as well as Dutch and Belgian ports and Calais.

Targets attacked today included a convoy of 12 ships off Dunkirk; barges in the Maas and Heusden, hits being claimed; and Rotterdam harbour.

MOST SECRET

3.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Ford R.N.A.S.Station was bombed and machine gunned this morning, causing some damage and 3 casualties.

One Dornier machine gunned St. Merryn R.N.A.S.Station this morning, damaging 3 aircraft.

WOLFHOUND and convoy F.S. 97 were bombed this morning by three enemy aircraft,, about 20 miles East of Felistowe, but no damage is reported.

TALISMAN was attacked 15 miles east of the Lizard, and one officer was wounded by a bullet.

Mining

Five Hampdens last night laid mines successfully in the south entrance to Langelands Belt.

H.M.Trawler COMET was mined and sunk at 0705/30/9 off the Manacles.

The Tyne was closed on account of suspected enemy mine laying until 0950 today.

Minelaying is suspected off the Firth of Forth. Approached to Rosyth were closed as far as Oxcars Gate this morning. Methil is open. Falmouth was closed this afternoon until a new channel is established.

South Atlantic

DELHI, DRAGON,MILFORD, with trawlers TURCOMAN and PRESIDENT HOUDACE left Sierra Leone with M.T. Convoy this morning.

MOST SECRET

3.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

MALAYA (F.O.C. 1st B.S.) RAMILLIES, EAGLE, AJAX, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers left Alexandria this morning for the neighbourhood of Crete, to cover the island and threaten the Libyan convoy routes.

ORION and SYDNEY last night carried out a brief bombardment of Maltezana in Stampalia. The result is not known, but from Italian reports there appear to have been some casualties.

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/3. (D.C.0215/3). At 1400/3. (D.C. 1418/3).

HOOD)
BERWICK)
NORFOLK) HOOD, BERWICK, NORFOLK, and available Destroyers at Scapa keep steam at one hour's Notice. (C. in C. H.F. 1148/3 to B.C.1.) Revert to normal Notice. (C. in C. H.F. 1341/3).

German Main Units. No further report. (D.D.I.C. 1559/3).

Policy.

Visibility of Ships at Night. Commanding Officer DESPATCH whose ship is light grey turning to nearly white in colour reports that when operating with destroyers recently in Western Approaches, they reported that DESPATCH was almost invisible at night. Also that when convoying in West Indies on a dark night a white ship in only visible one mile but a dark ship visible three miles. Am aware this matter has often been reviewed but consider this information of importance. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1323/3 to Adty.).

Anti-Invasion Patrol. Your 1727/2. To meet Adty. 1250/16 suggest 2 Destroyers on Patrol every other night. (V.A. Dover 1816/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth.

Cruisers for Sheerness. Your 1430/3. Move to Sheerness must be deferred for the present. (C. in C. Nore 1822/3 to 18 C.S.).

U.S.A. Officers as Observers. 2 U.S. Navy Lt. Commanders are to embark as Observers in a ship of 1st C.S. and in a H.F. Destroyer respectively. Full facilities to be granted, but not Recognition Signals. (C. in C. H.F. 2239/3 to R.A.D.)

Movements.

SANDWICH. Proceeding by Route F. (SANDWICH 0930/3 to A.C.O.S.)

MANCHESTER. May proceed to Scapa to carry out gunnery practices. (C. in C. Nore 1210/3 to C.S.18. 1415/3 to F.O. Humber).

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued)

HIGHLANDER — At 1440/3 my position 55° 38'N. 6°30'W. steering 287° at 13½ knots. (HIGHLANDER to SHEFFIELD, VERSATILE).

2nd TOWN Flotilla. — My 1449/29. Less KALK and HADDOX expects pass through 57° 55'N. 16° 4o' W. at about 0600/7. (F.O.C. 3 E.S. 1412/3 to Adty.)

Portsmouth. — Movements for Night 3/4. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1523/3 to Adty.)

Orkneys. — Trawler Line for Night 3/4. (A.C.O.S.1536/3).

Dover. — Patrols for Night 3/4. (V.A. Dover 1624/3).

DUNEDIN) CARDIFF) — Cancel my 2214/37. On completion of deperming and fitting 0.5 Machine Guns, DUNEDIN should be sailed for Portsmouth. On arrival of DUNEDIN at Portsmouth CARDIFF should be sailed for Clyde for duty as Gunnery Firing Ship under orders of C.in C. W.A. CARDIFF to be at 4 hours notice for service while at Clyde till further orders. (A.C.N.S. H. 1620/3).

Harwich. — Patrol O and Movements. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1656/3 to Corvettes).

ARK ROYAL. — My 1926/2. As Ship not fitted with F. and Q. coils, every precaution should be taken in sweeping Approach Channels. (D.O.D. H. 1728/3 to C.in C. W.A. and F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

GUILLEMOT) ANEMONE) — Sailed from Harwich 1748/3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1753/3 to Adty.)

Operations.

Operation LUCID. — Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. (D.D.I.C.0915/3).
Carry out Operation LUCID. (C. in C. Nore 1022/3 to D.21, D.16, etc.)
(V.C.N.S. 1027/3 to C. in C. Nore).
Operation postponed. All Forces return to Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 1420/3 to CARTH, CATTISTOCK, SPEEDWELL).
Operation postponed. (C.in C. Nore 1444/3 to D. 21, D.16, etc.).

Operation LUCID /

MOST SECRET

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Operation LUCID tomorrow 4th. Forces to proceed as in my 2224/2, 50 minutes being added to all times see Operation Orders Para. 10. If poor visibility makes it desirable, D.21 and S.O. Force B should sail Destroyers, M.T.B's, and M.L's earlier than times laid down. (C.in C. Nore 2216/3 to D.21, etc.). Request Fighter protection tomorrow 4th for Forces as by my 2336/2, 50 minutes being added to all times of sailing. (C.in C. Nore 2218/3 to H.Q.F.C.)
If possible, operation LUCID will be carried out to-morrow Friday. Zero hour 50 minutes later than to-day. Force C. to act as by my 2240/2. Time of passing North Goodwin L.V. may be amended as desired by D.16. but should not be before 1930/4. (C.in C. Nore 2220/3 to D.16)
Forces concerned will leave Sheerness as follows, proceeding by Edinburgh Channel and through Downs. Request Fighter protection from 1030 until dark. Code Word for all Groups ALPHA. (C.in C. Nore 2336/3 to H.Q.F.C.)

Anti-Invasion Patrol. To-night VANOC, VOLUNTEER, SARDONYX, STURDY patrol Eastward as cover for Convoy C.E.12. They may not proceed Eastward of Lydd unless in pursuit of Enemy, and may proceed Southward to 50° 5'N. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1253/3 to Adty.)

Western Channel Patrol. KELVIN, WANDERER, Plymouth to patrol South-Westward. (C.in C. W.A. 1645/3 to ships). If nothing sighted, patrol between Lizard and Start returning Plymouth by 0630/4. (C.in C. W.A. 1927/3 to KELVIN).

Operation ACTIVE Cancel my 2108/2. Attention is called to my 1522/1. (C.in C. Nore 1733/3 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven).

Submarines.

TALISMAN My 0720/3. Have not contacted Escort. Am diving 250° Eddystone 10 miles to await instructions. (TALISMAN 0820/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

UTMOST)
URSULA)
SWORDFISH)
UPRIGHT)

Positions and Movements (S.S. 1114/3 to 5th Submarine Flotilla). (C.in C. Portsmouth 1558/3 to Adty.).

/Greenock Area....

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Continued).

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1547/3).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/4. (V.A.S. 1642/3).

L. 23. Exercising in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M./4. (A.C.O.S. 1707/3 to Adty.)

H. 43. Exercising in Plymouth area. (C.in C. W.A. 2355/3 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Norwegian and Danish Coasts. Offensive Patrol. Will be carried out, weather permitting, on odd days of month from 59°N. to Lister Light on even days from Horns Reef to Lister Light to attack Enemy Shipping off the Coast. Patrols will take place A.M. and will consist of 3 Hudson aircraft. (C.in C. Rosyth 0040/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

Rosyth Air-Searches. For 4/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/3)

Dunkirk. 5 Blenheims attacked a Coastal Steamer in Outer Harbour and a Convoy of 12 ships off Dunkirk. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0152/4).

Housden } Rotterdam } Aircraft attacked Barges and Docks. (H.Q.B.C. 0152/4).

Enemy Air Activity.

TALISMAN Have been attacked by aircraft at 110° Lizard 15 miles. One officer with bullet wound in foot. (TALISMAN 0720/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

St. Merryn Machine gunned by one Dornier 17 at 0645. Fire returned. No casualties. 2 aircraft slightly damaged and one more seriously. (St. Merryn 1023/3 to C.in C. W.A.) For Dornier 17 read M.E.110. (St. Merryn 1437/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

/Convoy BOOTY .....

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy HOOFY. Aircraft attacking Convoy F.S.9 in 52° 9'N. 1°52'E. (F.S.9. 1137/3).
3 aircraft, 10 bombs, no hits. Position 52°N. 1°41'E. (WOLFHOUND 1138/3). Details of attack. (VANITY 0908/4 to Adty.)

ROYAL ARTHUR (Skerness) One aircraft dropped 11 Bombs on South end of Establishment. Damage not excessive. (ROYAL ARTHUR 1645/3 to Adty.)
(C.G.W. Immingham 1900/3 to C.E.in C. Bath).

Convoy BOSOM 2 Aircraft in sight of even numbered C.E. Convoy in 50° 50'N. 0°23'W. (Convoy 1821/3).

Ford. Station bombed and machine-gunned at 1915. 2 Bombs dropped. One airman killed and 2 seriously wounded. Some structural damage (R.A.N.A.S. 2055/3 to Adty.)

Mining.

Tyne. Closed owing to suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0032/3 to Adty.).

Rosyth. Approaches to Rosyth closed from 2°52'W. to Oxcars Gate. Port of Methil open. (C.in C. Rosyth 0513/3).
My 2253/30/8 and 0757/3/10. D.G. Range is not to be used until further orders owing to suspected Minelaying.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0807/3).

Falmouth. Your 1039/3. Falmouth closed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1456/3 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth).

LAUNCESTON. Tug. Mined and sunk at 1525 in 50°10'42"N. 4° 42'W. One survivor. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1620/3 to Adty.) (Sea Transport Falmouth 1700/3 to Transport Weedo London).

Falmouth. New Channel is being swept 3 cables broad. Centre line from 50° 8'N. 5°1'30"W. to 50°N. 4°57'48"W. Until this is established Falmouth is closed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1900/3 to Adty.).

COMET. H.M. Trawler. Missed and sunk at 0705/3 in 50°4½'N. 4°57½'W. 2 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2241/3 to Adty.)

LADY OF THE ISLES. British, 166 tons. Mined off Falmouth. (D.S. No. 396).

MOST SECRET

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Rotterdam, New Waterway, Hook Amsterdam	Shipping at 1500/2. (P.I.U. 0030/3 to N.I.D.)
Bergen	Enemy Unit, probably surface ship, within 60 miles radius of Bergen at 1024 B.S.T. D/F fix. (D.D.I.C. 1126/3).
Channel Approaches.	Indications of Enemy activity between Scillies and Lizard and 30 miles south. Type of ship unknown. (C.in C. W.A. 1259/3 to TALISMAN).
Brest.	7 Destroyers still present. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2230/3 to H.Q.C.C.)
Dungeness.	Indications of Surface Craft between Lydd Float and 4 miles to S.W. from 2100. (N.O.I.C. Dover 2320/3 to FERNIE, VANOC)
Dunkirk) Rotterdam) Gorinchem) Heusden)	Barges and Shipping during 3/10. (H.Q.E.C. 0132/4).

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MANKAI. Dutch, ex-German SCHEER. Sailed Singapore 6/9 for Durban. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0955. H/S to Adty.)

COMSEA. British, 2764 tons. In collision with unknown Trawler in 52°45'N. 2°4'E. Leaking but proceeding. Other Trawlers standing by the one in collision. (BLACK SWAN 2046 and 2120/3 to C.in C.Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

3.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

Convoys.	SHIPPING.
S.L.48.	Most. Route. (C.in C.W.A. 1130/3) Route (D.T.D. 1117/3)
O.A.223	CAMPANULA and ASPHODEL to join. (C.in C. W.A. 1717/3).
H.X.77.	EMPIRE AUDACITY, valuable cargo, request reinforced escort. (C.in C. W.A. 2328/3).
H.C.44.	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to R.V. (C.in C. W.A. 1529/3).
F.N.97.	Submarine TRIUMPH arriving with WHITE BEAR to escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1301/3).
8 M.V's	Intend sailing for Falmouth 1900/3 (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1939/3). Not approved. Port of Falmouth closed. (C.in C. W.A. 1621/3).
O.B. 223.	A/S trawlers to R.V. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1559/3).
H.X.78.	Amending 1502/30. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1006/1)
O.A. 226.	Route. (D.T.D. 1145/3).
C.L.6.	Route. (D.T.D. 1907/3).
F.S. & F.N.	Adty. 1828/26 and your 1747/27. Commencement of 7 knot F.S. and F.N. convoys has become a matter of urgency. No additional escorts at present available. If necessary slight reduction in frequency of sailings of convoys will be accepted. State earliest date slow F.S. convoy can be started. Concur in proposed time table and sequence of convoys (D.T.D.1950/3 to C.in C. Rosyth).
S.C.S.	Ocean escort not expected to arrive Sydney until about 12/10 thereby delaying convoy sailings (D.T.D. 1040/3 to N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.)

MOST SECRET.

3.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

Troop Convoys.

SHIPPING

Sailed with WOOLWICH 0115/3, 7 ships, escort HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HURRICANE (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0233/3). Have detached VERSATILE to assist HARVESTER screen HIGHLAND BRIGADE. SHEFFIELD will overtake convoy by 2000. (SHEFFIELD, 1536/3) R.V. not possible, request another. (HARVESTER to C.in C. W.A. 1617/3). Asking position course and speed. (VERSATILE and HARVESTER, 1735/3). Reply (HARVESTER, 1807/3).

S.W.1. Suggesting use of cargo space for U.K. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1737/3).

B.A.S.4. Admty. 1946/1. Date of assembly Stornoway of convoy for Iceland to be deferred (date) to enable CISNEROS and M.T. ship HARPAGON to be included. Convoy on leaving Stornoway will be known as B.A.S. 4. (D.O.D. (H) 1452/3).

Coast of U.K. As from sunset 1/10, no M.V. to approach with 3 miles of coast of U.K. between sunset and sunrise. Exceptions. (Hd. of M. 1356/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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MOST SECRET.

3.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Situation — Report for A.M.1. (C.O.C. W. Africa 0130/3).

H.T.Convoy — Left 0330/3, escorted by DELHI, DRAGON, MILFORD, TUCOMAN, and French PRESIDENT HOUDUCE. (C.in C. S.A. 0857 M/3)

Force H Intrels — Night patrols established north and south Fayal, South Terceira and Ponta Delgada from night 1-2/10 with RENOWN keeping clear to westward. Proposals for fuelling. (S.O. Force H, 1101/3)

"Alloy" and "Shrapnel". — No plans for, and asking whether start is to be from Freetown (serious objections) Gibraltar or U.K. (C.in C. S.A. 1103 M/3 1523/3).
48 hours required after orders to sail for reloading troops and stores disembarked. Restowing of ships for "Alloy" and "Shrapnel" will be completed today. (C.O.C., Force H to W.O. 1247/3). Increased resistance may be expected as result of Dakar. Spares for loading craft urgently required. (C.O.C. Force H, 1706/3, to W.O.)

French Africa. — Situation Report No. 28. Unrest at Conakry. Harbours of Banda Pointe and Mayumba firmly pro-De Gaulle. (D.N.I. 1259/3).

French Ships. — CAUDRERC and JUMIEGES passed Gibraltar eastbound 3/10 (F.O.C.N.A. 1514/3).
French survey ship ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ escorting CAUDRERC and JUMIEGES from west to east 1250. ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ passed from east to west 1401. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1517/3).

De Gaulle Plans. — Decided to disembark whole force at Duala. First object to gain control of Libreville. Reminds H.M.G. of undertaking re defence by R.N. from sea of any of French Colonies which declare for him. Further objects (Governor, Nigeria, 1940/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Shipping Reports. — M.E.W. requires information additional to present daily arrival and departure reports made by F.O.C.N.A. and C.O.S.O. Request daily report addressed "Admiralty for M.E.W." prefixed "Nazing" giving names nationalities and voyages of all ships other than British or Allied passing through Straits including those crossing the Straits to and from Spanish or International Morocco.
H.M. Ambassador Lisbon will pass to you copies of Arfar telegrams explaining reasons for this request. (D.M.E.W.D. 1935/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

RESOLUTION
BARHAM — Reply to Admty. 0232/2 re damage. (C.in C. S.A., 0347/3, 1082/3, 1725 R/3).
Request intended date of sailing, not to be delayed on account of A.M. 2202/2). (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1329/3). Arrangements to be made so that paravanes can be worked when on passage from Gibraltar. (D. of D. to F.O.C. N.A. 2102/3).

ALCANTARA — Left 0800/3 on patrol. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0701/31.

Overdue Ships. — Dutch MANGKAI, ex German SCHEER, Singapore 6/9 for Durban, not arrived.

B.M.I. — Suggesting could take commercial cargoes from Durban and Capetown for U.K. if space available. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1737/3 to D. of S.T.)

CUMBERLAND — Estimated with 10 days at Simonstown and some assistance from Yard will be able to carry out duties required in Admty. 2314/30 (C.in C. S.A., 2131/3). Details of urgent repairs to be taken in hand (C.in C. S.A. 1249/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French Ships. Your 1155 and 1801. Provided you are satisfied that guarantees will be adhered to I will give these ships safe conduct. Approval not necessary in each case but important to ensure that I am informed in plenty of time through you so as to avoid incident. In present cases owing to embargo rights at sea the reply to your message will barely reach in time. Am still without information about THEOPHILE GAUTIER situation. (C.in C. Med., 0003/3 to Consul General, Beirut).

Mines. 4 Italian mines cut by auxiliary sweeper on edge of old searched channel appear suitable for laying from surface vessels only. (V.A. Malta, 1433/3).

Submarines. Cancelling his 1637/28. Area now empty and Submarine on passage to Malta (route). (V.A. Malta, 1505/3, to Submarines on Patrol).

TRIAD } Operation B.S. To be sailed from Malta
TRUANT } for Alexandria 2 days apart. Route. Object to destroy enemy coastal traffic. (Capt. S.1, 1701/3).

TETRARCH } To leave patrol. Route. (Capt. S.1.1810/3)
TRITON }

Operation. Your 1259/2. Report of operations read with great interest. Congratulate you on its success and on the destruction of two Italian U-Boats and four Aircraft. Need of long distance air reconnaissance for Central Mediterranean is fully appreciated and every endeavour is being made to re-inforce Flying-Boats within limits of production, which are very inadequate at present. (1 S.L. 1943/3 to C.in C. Med.)

Cyprus. Re Guns for (C.in C. Med. 1635/3).

Malta. Eyes Re ground mines for beach protection. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1959/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy Attacks — Press articles and broadcasts taunting Italians with inactivity against Red Sea convoys inadvisable in view of leakage of movement (apparently through Japanese Consular Service). (C.in C. E.I. 1144 Z/3)

CERES C.M.4. — CERES to leave Mombasa 6/10 for Durban to protect shipping, subsequently to escort convoy C.M.4. to Mombasa. (C.in C. E.I. 1216/3).

5 Assab Raids. — Intelligence Summary No. 115 and Operational Summary. My Summary 114 add time 0906 for last Assab Raid. Also amend total raids Assab to 5 and add 2 Blenheims Indian Wing attacked fuel tanks and main jetty 0800 results not observed. Photographs of 2 raids reveal probable damage military barracks near main jetty and several small adjacent buildings also stores in naval barrack compound. Following for 24 hours ending 1400 3/10. (No naval incidents). 7 Gladiators 94 Squadron maintained standing fighter patrol Aden 0800 to 1150. No casualties. All times G.M.T. A.H.Q. Aden, 2006/3).

ARAWA / WESTRALIA — Orders for patrol. (C. in C. E.I. 0758 Z/3)

China.

Wei Hai Wei. — Requesting very early decision on policy. Agree with M.O.I.C. Wei Hai Wei's proposal if withdrawal is decided on. (C.in C. China, 0803 Z/3, re M.O.I.C.'s 0057/2).

(Repetition of telegram from Wei Hai Wei to me 1/10). Japanese Consul has handed notice from Jap C. in C., North China Forces, requesting my friendly co-operation, asks that M.O.I.C. and I should meet naval representative and himself at 1 p.m. to-day to discuss arrangements. Replied that subject to understanding shall have to refer for instructions, we would meet to hear proposals. He suggested desirable to avoid unfavourable press publicity of this matter. (Consul, Singapore, to Admty., 1125/3).

Japanese Consulate state that their Navy is getting impatient and have asked Medical Officer and I to meet them again 2 p.m. 4/10. (Broadmead, Wei Hai Wei, 1942/3, to F.O.)

Indo-China. — No liquidation by Chinese residents of interests to avoid benefits to Japanese. (Liaison Officer, Saijon, 0430 Z/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

CARADOC. Admty. 0914/3. After fuelling St. Lucia proceed with moderate despatch along direct route from Martinique to Cayenne. (C.in C. A. W.I. to CARADOC, 0641/3)

QUERCY. Intercept shadow and report QUERCY. (1 S.L. to C. in C., A. W.I., 0914/3)

My 0641/3 and your 0630/3. Adjust speed as necessary. No information yet received that QUERCY has left Cayenne. If still there, establish patrol in Cayenne Approach to intercept and shadow on sailing. Endeavour to avoid being sighted. (C.in C., A. W.I. 1122/3 to CARADOC).

My 1122/3. Operation cancelled. Return to St. Lucia. (C.in C., A. W.I. 2252/3 to CARADOC).
I have assumed ship has reached Cayenne (C.in C. A. W.I. 2301/3).

R.C.N. Destroyers. Admty. 1310/2. Following 6 American destroyers taken over by R.C.N. at 1600/24/9; MACKENZIE, HARADEN, THATCHER, WILLIAMS, MCCOOK, BANCROFT. Renamed respectively ANNAPOLIS, COLUMBIA, NIAGARA, SAINT CLAIR, SAINT CROIX, SAINT FRANCIS. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1109/3, to Admty.).

Admty. 2259/26/9, (re operating Townclass on this side). Will endeavour soon as practical. Crews still very green, particularly in higher key ratings. Can you assist this respect? Grateful for brief description what alterations necessary for Town class after arrival U.K. (C.N.S., Canada, 1216/3).

ARAUCA. Your 1122/1. Departments looking into matter and hopeful of finding means of delaying sailing. (N.A. Washington, 1209/3).

SATURNUS. Your 1901/2 suggest ship is Swedish SATURNUS which sailed Aruba 21/9 for Corpus Chri [illegible] (C.in C. A. W.I. 1823/3).

Australia.

Troop Transport. My 1200 Z/25. N.Z.N.B., Wellington, informs A.C.N.B. that N.Z. military authorities desire if possible to despatch up to 2,100 troops to Egypt forthwith. Request whether shipping can be arranged. (A.C.N.B. to Admty. 0202 Z/3.)

U.S.SA. Route, escort. (A.C.N.B., 0550 Z/3) PERTH escorting. Left R.V. in Bass Straits for Fremantle 0600 Z/2).

MAURETANIA Left Singapore 2/10 for Fremantle. (Cdre., Malay 0647Z/3 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.10.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SPEZIA	Advertised sailing for Genoa, cargo only. (Valencia, 1025/3)
SAARLAND	Left Dairen 2/10. A. 1. report, Master relinquished command 24/9 and crew relieved Japanese 26/9. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0441Z/3)
ARAUCA	(See America and West Indies)
EISENACH	At Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, reported from Panama to have fixed scuttling charges in hold (D.S. 395)
LUVSEE	Due at Dubrovnick 30/9 to load bauxite (D.S. 395)
ITHAKA CORDELIA	Arrived Galatz from Poti with manganese ore (D.S. 395)
13 ships, Mexico	Press report, 4 German ships at Mexico City and 9 Italian in Gulf Ports preparing for sea (list of ships there) (D.S. 395)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DENTICE	My 0849/16 (DENTICE left 15/9 for Puerto Cabello in tow of Govt. tug) Arrived Puerto Cabello 24/9. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1256/25/9, 2131/30 (delayed))

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BLACK PRINCE — Torpedoed at 0200, 56.08 N., 09.14 W., Request escort to prevent submarine shadowing. (FLEETWOOD, 1100/3) SKATE ordered to position. (C. in C., W.A., 1341/3)

FOREST — British, 4998 tons torpedoed 0200/3, 56.09 N., 9.14 W., In Convoy O.A. 222, outward bound for Panama and Australia (D.S. 395)

Submarines Reported

Azores Area — At 1630N/2 ARGUS reported one submarine on surface 350° distance three miles course unknown. Position 38.23 N., 20.24 W., Prior to this report no submarines had been reported in Azores Area since 14/9 but it is probable that a patrol has been operating between the Azores and Portugal. (D.O.D. (F) 1330/3)

Rumour local fishing schooner sighted 2 unknown submarines about 20 miles south of Grand Canary Islands 2/10. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1803/3)

1209 — Indications of U/B in 52° 00' N., between 18° W and 20° W., (C. in C., W.A., to MALOGA, 1837/3)

1717 — 50° N., 16.18° W., indefinite position (DS 395)

1744 — 57° N., 14.18° W., indefinite position (DS395)

Estimated Dispositions — Italian 1 in 38° 26' N., 20° 24' W at 1830/2
German 1 in 51° 12' N., 24° 22' W., at 1732/2
1 in about 53° N., and 1 in about 56° N both to West of 20° W.
Probably 1 60 to 100 miles further north
No recent indications of any nearer mainland.
Probably 1 in Cromarty Firth p.m. 2nd.
(D.D.I.C. 1306/3)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

KELVIN and WANDERER last night carried out a sweep between the Lizard and Start Point.

Four destroyers from Portsmouth last night carried out a protective patrol in the Channel for Convoy C.E. 12.

Dover was shelled at 0601 for a few minutes, but the shells landed outside the harbour.

Convoy C.E. 12 was shelled by Gris Nez Battery while in the Straits of Dover this morning. No damage was caused.

The new cruisers DIDO and PHOEBE arrived at Scapa p.m. today.

Shipping
Port of London

A limited number of ocean going ships of not more than about 6500 tons gross may now proceed to London and Portsmouth of the Humber. Ships in London will be berthed so as to present a scattered target.

British Air Activity

All operations last night by Bomber Command cancelled on account of weather. Routine patrols today were considerably curtailed for the same reason.

R.A.F. today delivered attacks by single aircraft on ports and shipping on the Dutch and Belgian coasts.

Enemy Air Activity

King George V Dock (London) was bombed at 0445/4, but escaped with slight damage to one shed.

An aircraft was shot down by fighters while shadowing a convoy off Cromer 0900 today.

JERSEY QUEEN was slightly damaged when attacked by incendiary bombs and gunfire this morning in St. George's Channel, while proceeding independently.

/Most.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Most of the towns on the S.E. coast between Ramsgate and Seaford were bombed today.

Mining

Three mines were cut in the minefield off the Hannelee in which 3 ships have been mined since 30/9.

Blyth was closed at 2256 today.

North Atlantic

RENOWN and destroyers left patrol off the Azores this morning and returned to Gibraltar. AUSTRALIA proceeds to patrol to prevent any enemy attempt to capture the islands.

Mediterranean

No damage was caused when 9 enemy aircraft attacked Malta this morning. One and probably two enemy aircraft were destroyed.

East Indies

KIMBERLEY was unsuccessfully bombed when on Perying Patrol this morning.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — At 0200/4. (D.C. 0212/4) At 1400/4 (D.C. 1427/4)

More Command Notice for Steam — Air R/C incomplete. Ships keep steam at half hours notice until 0900. (C. in C., Nore, 0541/4)

Burning Oil as Invasion Defence — Your 1817/28. Approved to begin work as soon as possible. (Head of M. 1044/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Floating Anti-Boat Obstructions — Local Naval Authorities have made progress with laying various types off important Beaches about one mile off shore. Positions not promulgated for reasons of secrecy and also because obstructions unlikely to remain permanently in position. But a good look out to be kept by Light Forces working close inshore during anti-invasion operations. Similar obstructions are also being placed in entrances to minor Ports. (A.C.N.S. H. 1431/4. Adty. General Message, Home 871. A.Z.)

Leave Arrangements — May now be resumed for Officers and Ratings in accordance with A.F.O. 3582/39 (1st S.L. 2135/4)

Policy

Bay of Biscay & Channel Free-for-all Area. — Adty's 1212/21/9. To enable our submarines on passage to and from Patrol in Bay of Biscay and on A/S Patrol S.W. of Pennarch to attack any vessel at sight, suggest Western Limit of Free-for All area be extended to line joining following points. (V.A.S. 1024/4 to Adty.) Concur (C. in C., W.A., 2015/4 to Adty.)

Belfast Trawler Force — It has been decided to reinforce Belfast Trawler Force by 10 A/S Trawlers from the South Coast, and the following are to be sailed as soon as practicable. (A.C.N.S. T. 1837/4)

/Proposed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy-Contd.

Proposed division of W.A.Command

Your 1532/2. Am doubtful of value of Arbitrary dividing lines between the Home Commands except near coast.
2. Ocean convoys are frequently routed north of 57° 43' N., the nominal limit of my command, but they remain the responsibility of C. in C., W.A.
3. German surface forces are already based on French west coast ports and are likely to be used against Sierra Leone and Gibraltar convoys; and, to counter these attacks, our own forces based on Plymouth will have to co-operate in the defence of the convoys, whether acting under orders of C. in C., W.A. or C. in C., Plymouth.
In these circumstances a dividing line between the commands becomes meaningless.
4. Suggest therefore that divisions between the Home Commands should be lines drawn from the coast to an unspecified distance to seaward as is already done in boundaries of sub-Commands.
5. Concur with proposed limits in St. George's Channel, and, if it is considered that the outer limits of commands should be defined, with the proposals generally. (C. in C., W.A., 2005/4 to Adty.)

East Coast Shipping

Cancel my 2032/10/9. General policy with regard to shipping on East Coast will for the present be as follows.
(A) A limited number of ocean going ships of not more than about 6500 tons gross may proceed to ports South of the Humber, including London. The number of such ships will be controlled by the Admiralty and for the present will not include refrigerated ships nor ships with considerable amount of timber.
(B) In addition to ships under "A", certain tankers will be allowed to proceed to ports South of the Humber, including London, each being dealt with individually by the Admty.
(C) Coaster traffic is to continue.
(D) Ships arriving from overseas if below 2500 tons gross will be considered to rank as coasters and are not subject to the limitation under "A"
(E) Ships in London will be berthed so as to present a scattered target, F.O.I.C. London being consulted by the Port Emergency Committee as to allocation of berths and rapid dispersal of inflammable cargoes.
(A.C.N.S. T. 2040/4 to C's. in C.)

20-barrelled U.P.Weapon

Request your remarks on this weapon. In which ships do you recommend it should be fitted. (1st S.L. 2232/4 to C. in C., H.F)

MOST SECRET

4.10.1940
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

More Command — Dispositions for night 4/5. (C. in C., More 0800/4) Day patrols and Movements to 1200/4)

Northern Patrol — Sailings and Routes. (F.O.C.N.P. 1504 and 1506/4)

Portsmouth — Movements for night 4/5 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1507/4)

ARETHUSA / GALATEA — ARETHUSA when ready for sea is to be sailed for Scapa to work up. GALATEA to be taken in hand at Chatham for refit 7 days after ARETHUSA leaves Sheerness. (D.O.D. H. 1534/4 to C. in C., More) ARETHUSA expected to complete 9/10 and will be placed under orders of C. in C., More, whome she must rejoin after working up. (A.C.N.S. H. 2118/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

Western Channel — Night Report. (C. in C., W.A. 1535/4)

Rosyth Area — Movements for night 4/5 (C. in C., Rosyth 1800/4)

Dover — Patrols for night 4/5. (V.A.Dover 1838/4)

STURDY / SARDONYX / SALADIN — STURDY and SARDONYX are to be sailed to reinforce N.W.Approaches Escort Forces and are to be joined by SALADIN on completion of her boiler cleaning. (A.C.N.S. H. 1847/4)

MACKAY / VERITY — To be sailed to Portsmouth and Liverpool to join C. in C., Portsmouth and C. in C., W.A. respectively. (A.C.N.S. H. 1847/4) VERITY to be sailed for Liverpool with moderate despatch at 1800/5. (C. in C., More, 2144/4 to D. 16)

ARGUS — Will be required to sail for Iceland on completion of leave, to fetch 701 Squadron complete. Request escort be arranged. (A.C.N.S. H. 1931/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

WITCH / MACKAY — Adty. 1847/4. Owing to continued postponement of operation LUCID intend to sail WITCH to Portsmouth instead of MACKAY (C. in C., More 2146/4 to Adty.) Intend sail WITCH for Portsmouth to pass south Goodwin Light Vessel 1915/5. (C. in C., More, 2148/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

/Operation LUCID....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation LUCID

My 0915/3. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. (D.D.I.C. 1007/4)

Carry out Operation LUCID (C. in C., Nore, 1020/4 to D. 21, D.16 etc.)

C. in C., Nore, 2216/3. As MYTILUS cannot sail before 1330, WAR NIZAM and OAKFIELD will form Force B and MYTILUS Force A. Units to sail accordingly. (HAMBLEDON 1024/3 to WAR NIZAM)

Carry out Operation LUCID (V.C.N.S. 1036/4 to C. in C., Nore.)

Operation LUCID will be carried out tonight 4/5. Zero hour 0010/5. (D.O.D.H. 1054/4 to Air Ministry) (Air Ministry 1155/4 to Air Commands)

Proceed immediately with OAKFIELD only. Report progress every 2 hours. (C. in C., Nore, 1228/4 to GARTH)

MYTILUS will not sail. WAR NIZAM will join Force A. OAKFIELD Force B. (C. in C., Nore, 1516/4 to D. 21, HAMBLEDON, SUTTON)

Bomber co-operation impossible tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1726/4 to HAMBLEDON)

Operation LUCID postponed. Forces return to harbour or anchor in Swept Channel proceeding at daylight. (C. in C., Nore 1816/4)

Expect arrive Oiler WAR NIZAM in company at 2230. Request Tugs outside gate as WAR NIZAM has no anchor. (CATTISTOCK 1930/4 to C. in C., Nore) Suggest you lead WAR NIZAM slowly to Oaze Deep, Tug would meet her there to hold her near East Oaze Light Vessel. (C. in C., Nore, 1934/4 to CATISTOCK) LADY BRASSEY from Dover has been ordered to join you. (C. in C., Nore, 1947/4 to CATTISTOCK)

Prepare to carry out LUCID tomorrow night 5/6. Zero hour will be 0050/6. Tidal information being sent by special courier. (A.C.N.S. H. 2100/4 to C. in C., Nore)

/Convoy C.E. 12....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Convoy C.E. 12 shelled — C.E. 12 passed Dover at 0530. Two salvoes of 4 rounds were fired from Gris Nez Battery when leading Ships were near South Goodwin Light Vessel. No hits or casualties reported. (V.A.Dover 0934/4 to Adty.)

Suspicious Vessel — Vessel now identified as BRITISH ENGINEER Return to harbour. (C. in C., W.A., 1419/4 to JAVELIN, WANDERER)

Anti-Invasion Patrol — Your 1816/3. In view of weather and my 4 available Destroyers having been on patrol two nights running, am not carrying out patrol tonight. But Destroyers will be at immediate notice. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1527/4 to V.A.Dover)

Submarines

Small S/Ms for Operation from Malta — Your 1312/2. Reply is contained in my minute on Adty. Docket P.D. 09091 of 30/9/40 (V.A.S. 1227/4 to Adty.)

L. 23 — Sails from Scapa 1000/5 escorted by Dutch T.B. Z 5. (A.C.O.S. 1514/4 to Adty.)

Greenock Area — Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1638/4)

Portsmouth — Movements (C. in C., Portsmouth 1647/4)

UPRIGHT / URSULA — Sailed UPRIGHT for Area W.2. and URSULA for Area D. 4. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1707/4)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0700/5. (V.A.S. 1736/4)

H. 28 — Sails Harwich with Destroyers 0600/5 for exercise at about 1400 (C. in C., Nore, 2238/4 to LOWESTOFT.)

E-Boats

Boulogne — 5 E-Boats reported at Boulogne (C. in C., Nore, 1134/4 to GARTH)

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity

Zeebrugge, Ostend, Rotterdam, Flushing, Maasluis, Ijmuiden. — Attacked by Aircraft 4/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0315/4)

S.A.4.B — Only being flown, owing to low visibility. (C.in.C. Nore 0543/4 to Admiralty)

Brest — All available Aircraft of No.59 Squadron to attack tonight 7 Destroyers reported in Brest Harbour moored alongside jetties from Rade Abri to West of Military Port. (H.Q.C.C. 1235/4 to 16 Group).

Rotterdam — All available Aircraft of No. 53 Squadron to attack tonight shipping in basins given in Operation No.77. Information shows increase of Barges in Basins East of Rotterdam Dry Dock. (H.Q.C.C. 1236/4 to 16 Group, Detling).

New Aircraft. Recognition Lights. — Propose that all Aircraft not fitted with new Lights be restricted to height below 5,000 feet. Thus any Aircraft above 5,000 feet not burning new Lights would be treated as hostile. (Air Ministry 1321/4).

S.A.1., S.A.2, and S.A.3. — Cancelled P.M./4 owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1354/4 to Admiralty).

Rosyth Air-Searches. — For 5/10. (C. in C. Rosyth 1802/4).

Enemy Air Activity.

JERSEY QUEEN — British, 910 Tons. Bombed and machine-gunned by one Aircraft at 0800/4 in 51°42'N. 6°5'W. Minor damage to Ship. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1700/4 to Admiralty).

Deal. — At 1300/4, attacked by 6 Aircraft. Several Bombs dropped. Some damage to Buildings. No casualties. (O.C. Deal Holding Battalion 1815/4 to Admiralty).

/Off Manacles.....

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Off Menacles — M.V. RENOVIA cut Mine in 50°4'55"N. 4°58'50"W. Mine sunk by rifle fire.(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1145/4 to C.in C. W.A.)
At 1500/30/9 BILSDEAN exploded Mine in sweep in 50°5'N. 4°54'W.
At 1755/30/9 POINTER swept a Moored Mine in 50°6½'N. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1538/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

Blyth — Port closed until sweeping completed about Noon. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2256/4 to C.in C. Rosyth.

Enemy Intelligence.

Ostend, Dunkirk, Maasluis, Rotterdam, Wesel. — Barges on 4/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0315/4).

Off The Hague — At 0736/4 in 51°50'N. 3°45'E. one Destroyer steering S.W. at speed. (H.Q.B.C. 0315/4).

Tunny Fishing Boat No.3384 of Douarnenez. — Reported manned by 15 Germans dressed as fishermen. Presumed in company with French Tunny Fleet reported off Grand Sole Bank about 26/9. Grade B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1246/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

Lorient — My 1003/2. TRIBUNE reports 16 Trawlers in line entered Lorient 28/9. V.A.S.1453/4 to Admiralty)

The Sound — Press reports Sound open for Traffic 3/10. N.A. Stockholm 1515/4 to Admiralty)

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940
Friday

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

CITY OF BAGDAD,
EGMEREDYNE,
BRITISH
COMMANDER,
BENARTY,
ATHELKING,
BENAVON,
TIRRANNA,
TALLEYRAND,
PILLERJELL,
COMMISSAIRE
RAMEZ.

Ships lost by enemy action or still overdue in E.I. station since 16/6. (C.in C. E.I. 05382/4)

LOCH RANNOCH.
SEAFLOWER.

H.M. Trawler. In collision yesterday 3/10 with H.M. Yacht SEAFLOWER. Needs minor repairs but can still operate. SEAFLOWER was and is now off Port Edgar and has only slight damage. (Capt. i/c. P.E.1021/4 to Admiralty).

BROCKLEY
HILL.

British, 5297 Tons. In collison at 0700/4 owing to defective steering gear since repaired. Postion 58°35'N. 17°10' W.making for Pentland Firth 7 knots escorted by LADY ELSA. (JASON 1115/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

KAYESON

British, 4606 Tons. JASON's 1115/4. Please report names of Trawlers detached as by my 1850/2 ordering LADY ELSA and BLACK FLY to go to help of KAYESON. (C.in C. W.A. 2017/4 to ANTHONY).

LUCITA

Dutch Tanker, 2604 Tons. Cancel my 1559/3. LUCITA fouled moorings of S.W. Shingles Buoy when sailing and now proceeding in tow of STALWART to Southampton for repair. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1604/4 to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Coastwise Convoys, Escorts.

Volume of coastwise shipping proceeding northabout must now be largely increased for the following reasons.-(details).
To meet the additional requirements of shipping, a modification of the existing northabout coastal convoy arrangements is necessary.
Already proposed to abolish OA convoys and to sail ocean convoys from West Coast ports only, thus economising in escorts; now proposed to provide daily convoys for coasters and ocean-going ships proceeding from East to West Coast ports and vice versa, as follows.-(details).
Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1906/4 to C.in C. Rosyth, C.in C. W.A.)
Cancel my 2052/10/9. General policy with regard to Shipping on the East Coast will for the present be as follows.
(A) A limited number of ocean going ships of not more than about 6500 tons gross may proceed to ports South of the Humber, including London. The number of such ships will be controlled by the Admiralty and for the present will not include refrigerated ships nor ships with considerable amount of timber.
(B) In addition to ships under "A", certain tankers will be allowed to proceed to ports South of the Humber, including London, each being dealt with individually by the Admiralty.
(C) Coaster traffic is to continue.
(D) Ships arriving from overseas if below 2500 tons gross will be considered to rank as coasters and are not subject to the limitation under "A".
(E) Ships in London will be berthed so as to present a scattered target.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2040/4 to C's in C. at Home)

Convoys.

C.E.12. Passed Dover 0630. 2 salvoes of 4 rounds fired from Grisnez Battery when leading ships were in vicinity of South Goodwin L.V. No hits or casualties. (V.A. Dover 0934/4).

O.B.223. To R.V. with O.A.223 at 1900/4. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 1300/4). Cancel my 1300/4 (C.in C. W.A. 1440/4). Aircraft at 0700/5. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/4).

F.S. & F.N. Time table to be brought into force starting with F.S.1 and F.N.1. Cancel my 1730/25/9. (Cin C. Rosyth 1255/4).

/Escort situation .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping. (Continued).

Escort situation in N.W. Approaches.	Concur in your 1838/27. 2. Difficulty in finding suitable anchorage for merchant ships. 3. Re-running Gibraltar convoys on 20 day cycle to reduce number of sloops. 4. Proposing C.in C. Rosyth should assume responsibility for O.A. convoys and their events. 5. In favour of the proposed deep mine - fields. (C.in C. W.A. 1553/4 to Adty.)
O.A. 223.	CAMPANULA degaussing not satisfactory, unable to join O.A. 223. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1731/4).
Convoys	
S.L. 50.	Position and escort. (D.T.D., 1704/4)
H.X. 75.	My 1040/2. Delete INDUNA. (C.in C. W.A. 1820/4, D.T.D. 1337/4).
O.B. 226	Route. (D.T.D. 1311/4)
F.N. and F.S.	Forecast of sailings 1 to 8 (C.in C.Rosyth 1257/4).
Troop Convoys	
B.N.6.	Sailing telegram, Aden Section. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0643/4).
W.S.3.	Request your position course and speed. (VERSATILE to HARVESTER, 0005/4). At 0200, 102° Altnacarry Head 8 miles, 309°, 15. (HARVESTER, 0127/4). Escort for W.S.3, Fast. (C.in C. W.A. 1037/4). Route. Arrange R.V. for KENYA (C.in C. W.A. 1949/4 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

"Alloy" BARHAM. Your 1103 M/3. Practically certain "Alloy" will remain at Freetown but alternatives of Gibraltar and United Kingdom will be discussed today. Sailing of BARHAM to be deferred pending decision. (1 S.L. to C.in C. S.A., 0061/4). "Alloy" to proceed to Gibraltar escorted by BARHAM as soon as convenient, being routed to west of Cape Verde Island. (1st S.L. 1843/4).

De Gaulle's Force. Pass to De Gaulle from Governor Cameroons. It will be necessary for troops to disembark complete with their stores. Ends. Please confirm that De Gaulle has received message of 2/10 from Governor Cameroons ~~re~~ food. (C.in C S.A. 1217 M/4 to Governor, Nigeria).

Situation Report. French Africa No. 29. (D.N.I. 1826/4).

"Alloy" "Shrapnel" Restowing completed. (Force A Sierra Leone 2050).

French Shipping. Important to prevent provisions, supplies and reinforcements from reaching Vichy French ports in West Africa South of Dakar and Gaboon in particular. All ships in the vicinity southward of these ports should keep good look out for merchant and warships engaged in such operations, merchant ships being boarded and examined. (C.in C. S.A., 1717/4).

North Atlantic.

AUSTRALIA Admiralty 2256/26. AUSTRALIA proceed to patrol near Azores to prevent any enemy attempt to capture those islands. Such attempt would most likely come from French Biscay ports. Not to enter territorial waters or be more conspicious than necessary. Oil at Gibraltar when necessary (1st S.L. 1913/4) Intelligence (D.O.D(F) 1917/4 to AUSTRALIA).

/Transfer .....

MOST SECRET

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued).

Transfer of troops from Jibuti to Indo-China. Reasons why request of French Admiralty cannot be granted. (1st S.L. 2017/4 to N.A. Madrid).

RENOWN. Your 1101/3. RENOWN and destroyers have patrol a.m./4 and return to Gibraltar. F.O.C. N.A. comply with para. 5. (1st S.L. 0053/4 to S.O. Force H.)

VIDETTE. Left Gibraltar 1000/3 escorting PACIFIC, HEDERA, MANSURIA to Melilla (S.O(I) Gibraltar 0052/14).

Movements. Station Report. (F.O.C. N.A. 1116/4 to S.O. Force H.)

Portuguese sloop accompanied by seaplane, arrival of at Azores. My 1040/3/3. Seaplane has been shipped to Lisbon on completion of photographic survey (V - C. Fayal 1910/4)

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND. C. in C. S.A. 1249/4 see 5/10. Left Freetown 1400/4 to R.V. with W.S.3 as in C.in C. S.A. 1859/3 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1603/4)

C.M.4. Composition, sailing date (Durban to Mombasa), escort CERES (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1644/4).

CANTON. Arrived Simonstown CANTON.

A.F.S. Arrived Capetown with CARNARVON CASTLE less ULSTER PRINCE dropped out on passage and expected to arrive 5/10. (N.O.i/c. Simonstown 1830 2/4).

Naval aircraft shot down off Casablanca. Your 2302/2. Governor General, Dakar is consulting his Government. Names of rescued. (C.in C. S.A. 0021/4 to Adty.)

/FAULKNOR .....

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued).

PAULINOR — S.O.(I) Freetown 2005/2, Admiralty 0231/2, C.in C. S.A. 1251/3. Unless there are good reasons PAULINOR is to accompany BARHAM when she proceeds to Gibraltar (A.C.N.S.(F) 1801/4 to C.in C S.A.).

British Airways Aircraft. — Asking what instructions have been issued to them when proceeding to and from West Africa, re signalling &c. (C.in C. S.A. 1059 H/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation.	Following operation in progress F.O.C. 1.B.S. with MALAYA, EAGLE, BARHILLIES, AJAX, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers sailed a.m./3 to proceed to Crete close west of Crete. Expected to arrive Alexandria a.m./6. (C. in C. Med., 0805/4).
Proposal to send small submarines to Mediterranean.	Reply to your 1512/3 is contained in my minute on Adty. docket P.D.05091 of 30/9/'40 (V.A.S. 1527/4 to Admiralty).
KENT.	Asking where she is to proceed for permanent repairs. (C. in C. Med.1117/4).
Re ground mines.	For beach protection. Reply to N.O.I.C. Malta 1959/3. (Adty.1305/4).
Operation M.J.	My 1701/3 is in abeyance. Further orders will be sent (Capt.(S) one 1045/4 to TRIAD, TRUANT).
Stores Malta.	Reply to 1836/3 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1336/4 to Governor, Malta).
Air raid on Malta.	Air raid 1000/4 by 9 aircraft. No damage. Bag one certain, one probable. (V.A.Malta 2047/4).
AJAX	As from 1/10 AJAX is to join 7th C.S., being administered by V.A.L.F. (C.in C. Med., 0004/4).
TETRARCH TRYTON.	Orders for patrol (V.A. Malta 1049/4).
Fleet Composition.	Re. Admiralty 1332/1, corvettes, mine-sweepers, etc. (C. in C. Med 1113/4). See Operations Vol.

/THEOPHILE .....

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. (Continued).

THEOPHILE GAUTIER. Your 2015/3. Questions at issue over movements of French and British shipping are not ones of international law. French are asking us to allow them certain privileges which I am quite willing to grant provided they on their side co-operate. In the case of THEOPHILE GAUTIER no notice was given to me of movements of the ship, and she disobeyed order of patrol to enter Haifa. I am now asked to disregard this incident and treat THEOPHILE GAUTIER on same basis as other vessels repatriating troops. The ship is required to go through the formality of stopping at Haifa merely to establish the principle that if privileges are accorded the requirements attached there to must equally be fulfilled just as no doubt Italian requirements are being carried out. (C.in C. Med., 1213/4, to Consul Gen., Beirut).

Taranto. Examination of air photograph of Taranto taken on 26/9 September shows five battleships in harbour. Two Italian Battleship LITTORIO class and three CAVOURS. (C.in C. Med., 1235/4).

Safe conduct for French Ships. Your 0003/3. I have no reason to believe guarantees will not be adhered to and I have therefore informed High Commissioner that you are giving safe conduct to six ships both out and home. (C. - C. Beyrout 0812/4 to C. in C. Mediterranean.)

French Ships. Beirut. My 2325/3. French Ships JEAN L.D., SAGITTAIRE, ANDRE LEBON sailing from Marseilles for Beirut on 5/10 have been granted safe conduct. If met by surface vessels they may be boarded for verification. They have guaranteed to carry no cargo or military equipment. (C. in C. Med., 1327/4) Passed to V.A.S. 1329/4).

Press Communiques. Liaison over press announcements continues unsatisfactory. Care was taken not to give gratuitous information to Italians of passing troops into Malta during operations 29/9 to 2/10 yet this

/information....

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

information was broadcast in the British Official Press during night 3/4/10 and on the B.B.C. News. Apart from security consideration, this is most unfair on local correspondents. (C.in C.Med.1532/4).

Blockade avoided by French.

A report graded C.3. indicates that cargo ships for France avoid blockade in the Mediterranean by closely following North African coast until opposite Italy and then crossing over and going up inside Italian waters. (D.N.I. 1828/4 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

Bombardment of Maltezana.

ORION and SYDNEY carried out a brief night bombardment of Maltezana in Stampalia Island during night 2nd/3rd October. Result not known but from Italian reports there appear to have been some casualties. (C. in C. Med.,2037/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.N.7. — Movements (F.O.C. R.I.N. 0624 Z/4).

S.W.2, A.P.3, W.S.3, SHROPSHIRE, CARTHAGE, DORSETSHIRE. — SHROPSHIRE to be employed with Red Sea Force in order to provide sufficient escort for convoys as no ships are available from Mediterranean at present. Re other convoys and escorts (C.in C. E.I. 0606 Z/4).

KIMBERLEY. — Bombed on Perim Patrol 0535 Z/4. 5 bombs, no damage (C.in C. E.I. 0714 Z/4).

ARAWA. — Escorting ORCADES expects to arrive Capetown a.m./12. (C.in C. E.I. 0810 Z/4). Is she to be retained on E.I. Station? (C.in C. E.I. 1120 Z/4 to Adty.).

KINGSTON — Left 0800 Z/4 tojoin B.N.6 (N.O.I.C. Aden 0811 Z/4).

Air Activity. — Daily Intelligence Summary No.116 and Operational Summary (Air H.Q. Aden 1920/4).

Press indiscretions. — Your 1144/3 (paper taunting Italians with inability to hit ships in Aden). Concur such stories most undesirable, please stop them (V.C.N.S. 1925/4 to C.in C. E.I.).

CITY OF BAGDAD
KEMMENDINE
BRITISH COMMANDER
DEHARTY
ATHEL KING
BENAVON
TIRRANNA
TALLEYRAND
FIREFJELL
COMTE DE SAIRE RUHEL

Since 16/6 ships named in margin lost by enemy action or are still overdue on Station.
Passengers and crews from these ships must now total some 1800 persons and it is reasonable to suppose that they have been landed and are being maintained somewhere. If this place can be found it might lead to destruction of raider and supply ship. If there is no knowledge of whereabouts of these people, I consider Kerguelen should be searched as soon as an 8 inch cruiser available. SHROPSHIRE, CANBERRA cannot be spared. Asking whether DORSETSHIRE could undertake search.
(C.in C. E.I. 0538/Z/4 to Adty. C.in C. S.A.)

Kerguelen to be searched.

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Policy. Telegram from Chiefs of Staff No.11 to O.A.C., Straits Settlements, repeated to Cs.in C, Far East, re proposed conference with Australian and N.Z. Governments at Singapore, representatives of India and Burma to attend.
(1 S.L., 1247/4).

Propaganda. His views on construction of transmitter for broadcasting propaganda from Singapore to Far East countries (C.in C. China 0213 Z/4).

Japan
Thailand. He does not agree with Gov. Straits Settlements 276 of 3/10 (C.in C. China 0313 Z/4).

U.S. and
Indo-China. Suggesting visit by U.S. Warships to Kamranh Bay would have a very stabilizing effect. French opinion is that Japanese contemplate early advance into Southern Indo China. Understand French Authorities would welcome such a visit.
(C.in C. China, 0557/4).

Yangtse
Supplies Re arrangement with U.S. river gunboat TUTUILA. (N.O.I.C., Rangoon, 0854 Z/4).

MOLLER
Steamship
Seizures. My 0837 Z/21 and 0858 Z/30. Japanese written replies based on report of Japanese authorities. (B.N.L.O. Shanghai, 0814 Z/4).

German ships. Report from French source through M.A. Shanghai valuation unknown 9/9 indicated possible attempt by four German ships, one 8000 tons, two 12000 tons, one 21000 tons to take cargoes from South America between 18/9 and 20/10.

Ships will R.V. with and tranship goods from vessels ostensibly engaged in coastal trade then make immediately for North Atlantic, destination Murmansk or Petsamo. One ship to take cargo in Rio Grande Do Sul others in Amazon Delta or south for Montevideo.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0922 Z/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

American and West Indies.

HAKONE MARU. May be released providing satisfied no cargo originally manifested for France or North Africa has been discharged at Lisbon. (D.E.W.D. 1237/4 to C.in C. A.W. I.) Difficulty of dealing with her case. Also re two other ships. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1121/4).

Your 1237/4. Paper shows that all cargo discharged at Lisbon was for Liverpool or Gibraltar. Ship has been released. 1712/4.

2nd Town Flotilla. Names assigned from 2359/4. (D.O.D.(H) 1048/4).

QUERCY. Your 1122/3. It was desired to intercept before she reached Cayenne. If arrived, cancel my 0914/3. (1 S.L. to C.in C. A. W.I. 0115/4).

WILPUNEN. Giving him information received from S.O.(I) Monte Video (D.N.I. 1721/4 to N.A. Washington).

Halifax. Re fuelling facilities and oil storage in case a large fleet should be based there (C.N.S. Canada 1141/4).

KURESSAAR. Estonian. Baltimore reports vessel detained on account of crew trouble. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1744/4).

HAKOZAKI MARU
FUSHIKI MARU Re-calling at Bermuda (C.in C. A. W.I. 1121/4).

KALK
MADDOX
CAMERON My 1432. KALK and MADDOX must return to HALIFAX or St.Johns N.F. after temporary repairs, to dock for changing propellers and in the case of MADDOX probably one tail shaft. Collision was due to parting of wires operating engine room telegraph. Recommend early inspection of these in all Town Class destroyers. CAMERON will remain at St.John's N.F. for remaking steam joints etc. and should be able to sail with 3rd Group.
V.A. 3rd B.S. 1256/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MONCTON. My N.S. 10.08 - 12 - 5 of 19/7, and your 1350/27/9. H.M.C.S. CAMBELTOWN has been renamed MONCTON. Submit that names already given to H.M.C.S. may be taken into consideration when selecting name for vessels.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1450/4 to Admty.)

Raider. Seattle reports Nor. Masters here are strongly of opinion raider in South Atlantic was ex VENUS (Nor) speed 20 knots. Both Nor. VENUS and VEGA were in Norway at the time German occupation according to information from Masters Ends.
(D.N.I. Ottawa 1655/4).

SIMLA. My 1246/10/9. Philadelphia reports. Rumours here indicate Norwegian ship SIMLA attacked and torpedoed enroute to England. In view of pro-Nazi Captain on board I consider this may be a ruse to take the ship back to Norway. Have strong grounds for doubting bona fide of Captain and suggest patrol be warned to look out for her. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1745/4).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KLAUS SCHOKE Reported indications preparing to leave (V.C. Fayal 1910/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked.

SIMLA — See America and West Indies.

Submarines Reported.

1037. — D.F., unreliable fix, probable U/B, 53°N. 22°W. (D.D.I.C. 1147/4).

1100. — By aircraft 49.04 N., 12.31 W. (C.in C. W.A. 1141/4). U-Boat probably bound for Lorient position 49.04 N., 12.31 W. at 1100/4. (V.A.S. 1156/4) Course 360°. (C.in C. W.A. 1317/4).

1240. — SSSS. Periscope sighted Tees Bay. (THALA, 1240/4).

1130. — Suspected U-boat reported by merchant ship in Tees Bay. (C.in C. Rosyth 1552/4.

1607. — By D/F 55° N. 17° to 19°W. (C.in C. W.A. 1553/4).

MALOJA — U-boat proceeding easterly may cross your track between 2000 and midnight today. (C.in C. W.A. 1730/4 to MALOJA).

1209. — 52° N. 22° W. Approx. (D.S. 396).

North Atlantic.

Consul, Las Palmas, reports unconfirmed rumours of 2 unknown submarines sighted by schooner 20 miles south of Grand Canary 2/10. (F.O.C.N.A. 0525/4).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions. — 1 in 49° 04' N. 12° 32' W. at 1100/4 will probably arrive Lorient p.m./5.
1 about 550 miles west of Fastnet.
Another in about 53° N. 22° W. at 1037/4.
1 about 250 miles further north.
1 was in 56° N. 9° W. at 0200/3.
1 about 100 miles Westward of Rockall.

By TRIBUNE 26/9. — 5 torpedoes fired at range 2700 yds. On looking 6 minutes later U-boat was not in sight and TRIBUNE had to avoid A/S hunt (V.A.S. 1453/4).

1104. — By aircraft with bomb and d.c. 49° 4'N. 12°32'W. No hits. (D.S. 396).

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Anti-Invasion Patrol

In view of the weather and the 4 available destroyers having been on patrol two nights running, anti-invasion patrol by Portsmouth destroyers was not carried out last night. C. in C., Portsmouth proposes that this patrol should no longer be carried out, observing that we are in a position to detect in sufficient time, even in poor visibility, large movements of vessels at Antwerp and Dunkirk in connection with any invasion attempt.

Italian Submarine Sunk

At 0700 today TIGRIS attacked 3 Italian submarines of SAFTORRE SANTAROSA class and two French patrol vessels entering the Gironde, and sank one of the submarines.

Enemy Intelligence

Two vessels, believed to be cruisers, were reported by aircraft off Utsire Island at 1020/5, steering south. Visibility was bad and the enemy vessels were not seen by a later patrol.

British Air Activity

Night operations last night were cancelled owing to adverse weather conditions.

Two ships of escort type were bombed today in a harbour of Utsire Island, resulting in near misses and a hit on the jetty.

Attacks were made during the day on various vessels off the coast of Norway and also on 4 trawlers proceeding into Dieppe
o

Enemy Air Operations

A large fire was started at West India Dock this evening.

Superficial damage to Portland Dockyard was caused by an attack this evening.

Dover was bombed early this afternoon. All bombs fell in the sea. There was a second attack this evening but again no naval damage or casualties were caused.

/WALLACE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

WALLACE and convoy F.N. 100 were attacked off the coast of Suffolk this afternoon. No hits were obtained.

Convoy "Agent" (F.N.) was attacked this evening. No damage is reported.

Mining

Minelalaying by enemy aircraft last ni ght is suspected off the North East Coast and between Orfordness and Lowestoft and in the Thames Estuary.

The Swedish wireless and press announce that on 1/10 the SS GONDUL was mined in Trindel Channel, 2 miles south of Limhamn; salvage is believed to be possible. The Channel, which was supposed to be mine-free, was closed but is open again.

Mines have been found near the South Goodwin Lt. V. but search sweep was without result.

Blyth was reopened early this afternoon after sweeping.

A mine was exploded in the Humber this morning. The river was closed later.

M.V. ADAPTITY (372 tons) was mined and sunk at 1130 today off the Blackwater River.

North Atlantic

A.B.V. KINGSTON SAPPHIRE is reported to have been torpedoed this morning about 30 miles west of Cape Trafalgar.

2 French merchant vessels were sighted by air reconnaissance at 1630 today, 60 miles west of Alboran Island. F.O.C.N.A. has no destroyers available to bring them in, and in fact, the Straits of Gibraltar patrol is reduced to one destroyer and two trawlers, which are totally inadequate.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Since 16/6 ten ships have been lost by enemy action or are still overdue on the East Indies Station. Passengers and crews from these ships must now total some 1800 persons and it is reasonable to suppose they have been landed and are being maintained somewhere. NEPTUNE is to carry out a search of Kerguelen before proceeding to Freetown.

C. in C., S.A. has issued instructions that Vichy French warships if met at sea south of Dakar are to be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar and are not to go to any French West African port. French submarines approaching any Free French port are to be sunk at sight. French merchant ships are to be sent in for examination, unless definitely established as under Free French control or proceeding in interests of Free French between Free French ports.

Mediterranean

160 bombs were dropped on Mersa Matruh today by raiders which arrived from seaward without warning. Some damage was caused. A.A. guns claim 3 hits.

East Indies

LEANDER escorting Convoy B.N. 6. was bombed at 1230 today, forty miles south of Jebel Qubair Island (Red Sea)

America and West Indies

The U.S.A. Navy have received a report of the sighting today, about midway between Bermuda and Porto Rico, of a submarine and a clinker built lifeboat without a name.

MOST SECRET.

5.10. 1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A/S Trawlers in Firth of Forth. — Asking for reinforcement in order that essential patrols may be maintained (C.in C. Rosyth 1015/5).

Faeroes 2nd C.S. 18 C.S. — Local regulations for shipping (A.C.N.S.(H) 1307/5).
Ships of these cruiser squadrons, proceeding to Scapa for exercises will come under operational control of C.in C. H.F. while they are north of the Nore Command waters (A.C.N.S.(H) 1800/5).

Refits. — Request permission to resume refits in the case of local small craft (A.C.O.S. 1944/5).

Attacking at sight. — Amending Adty. 1212/21/9 (A.C.N.S.(H) 1252/5).

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge" — At 0229/5 (D.C.0201/5) at 1400/5 (D.C. 1439/5).

Destroyer shortage. — Adty. 1259/16/9 and 1127/5/10.

WOLVERINE must refit in immediate future leading only 3 destroyers available.

Anti-invasion patrol. — Only one of the 5 French T.B's is fit to go outside defences except in emergency. They are in any case inadequate in fighting power to meet any enemy torpedo craft.

I can cover the westbound merchant vessel groups by the two French sloops and the one efficient French T.B.

I consider it essential to have two destroyers at immediate notice at night at Portsmouth for unforeseen commitments. If this is accepted it is no longer possible to maintain the Dover commitment.

As it will take 12 hours to clear Antwerp and up to 18 hours to clear Dunkirk and even in poor visibility air R.C. can detect big movements, I suggest that I hold destroyers at Portsmouth in readiness to proceed to Dover area but cease the regular patrol. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2243/5.)

Your 1727/2. Although it is realised 4 French ships are ill found is it not

/possible .....

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (continued)

possible to make greater use of 23rd. DF?
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1127/5 to C.in C. Portsmouth.

Movements.

ARK ROYAL ARGUS — SHEFFIELD is to detach destroyers to R/V with ARK ROYAL ARGUS in 59° 00' 21° 32' at 0715/6. Route.

If short of fuel VERSATILE VIMY WITHERINGTON VISCOUNT are to be detailed earlier to meet ARK ROYAL as fuel permits.
9th D.F. are to escort ARK ROYAL to Liverpool.
Remainder escort ARGUS to Clyde. Escort to be redistributed if necessary for destroyers to fuel at Lough Foyle.
If VERSATILE HARVESTER not in company they are to R/V with ARK ROYAL as situation permits.
(C.in C. W.A. 1149/5)

My 1149/5. ARK ROYAL ARGUS are to proceed on their route. Destroyers are to join as weather permits and are to report if not met by 2100/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1831/5).

Your 1149/5. Cannot reach position at time indicated. Will rendesvous as near position 061° 00' 021° 30' as possible.
(HURRICANE 1800/5).

VANITY — Expect to arrive 20 C Buoy 2130 (VANITY 1123/6)

Nore Command — Day patrols and movements to 1200/6 (C.in C. Nore 1200/5).

Reinforcement of E.W. Approaches Escort Force. — Intend sailing SARDONYX, SALADIN for Liverpool p.m. 6, STURDY 11/10 (C.in C. Portsmouth 1237/5).

Dover Patrols. — Night 5/6 (V.A. Dover 1304/5).

PHONX. — Your 0906/5 return to Rosyth (C.in C.W.A. 1319/5).

Orkneys. — Movements tonight (F.O.C.O.S. 1531/5).

/ Trawlers .....

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

Trawlers to reinforce Belfast Trawler Force.

Intend to sail KINGSTON ALALITE, KINGSTON ANDALUSITE 1830 for Plymouth (C.in C. Portsmouth 1553/5).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler line tonight (F.O.C.O.S.1536/5).

VERSATILE
HARVESTER
H.M.L.A.N.D.
BRIGADE

Noon position. HARVESTER Asdic set and gyro compass out of action. VERSATILE Asdic set and D.C. coil out of action (VERSATILE 1600/5).

Western Channel

Night report (C.in C. W.A.1625/5).

ARISTOCRAT

When ready to sail for Leith for temporary service as guardship (D.O.D.(H) 1907/5)

M.T.B's

Available at Harwich 14-16-107, Sheerness 37-38, Chatham 31-32-5 (C.in C. Nore 1911/4).

TRIUMPH

Your 1709/17/8 (see Mediterranean Volume) TRIUMPH should now arrive Gibraltar approx. (date.) (V.A.(S) 2211(5)to Adty.)

Operations.

Operation "LUCID"

Your 2100/4. Force are much scattered at least one M.T.B. and one M.L. have broken down condition of oilers very doubtful do not consider operation can be satisfactorily carried out today. (C.in C. Nore. 0058/5 to Adty.).

Operation LUCID will not be carried out tonight. Prepare to carry out operation 6/10. (C.in C. Nore. 1038/5.).

Record of progress up to date with Operation LUCID.

2. The following breakdowns and defects have occurred in Oilers WAR NIZAM, MYTILUS, WAR BAHADUR. details.

3. 25/9 all Forces sailed but WAR NIZAM's speed dropped to 3 knots before reaching Edinburgh Channel owing to inexperienced engine room Personnel being unable to maintain requisite steam pressure. Operation therefore cancelled.

/ 4. 3/10 .....

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

4. 3/10 majority of Units sailed in doubtful conditions of wind and visibility. By 1400 H.Q. reported air co-operation not possible. Added to this the wind was E.S.E. Operation cancelled at 1420. Forces returned but MYTILUS grounded on Nore Sand.

5. 4/10 MYTILUS remained aground until 1440 this combined with boiler defects limiting speed to 6 knots, precluded her sailing. All other Forces sailed although weather doubtful. By 1800 H.Q. reported air co-operation not possible. Weather was then deteriorating rapidly with strong S.S.W. wind and rising sea. Signals postponing operation from C.in C. Nore and Captain Agar crossed in transit. A number of Units returned to Sheerness and the Nore after dark but neither Oiler got in until well after daylight nor did the mine-sweepers or M.T.B. 34 who had hull and engine defects. Anxiety was felt for WAR NIZAM which had no anchors. Tugs were sent to her assistance and she was thereby enabled to heave to in Case Deep until daylight. The loss of these anchors is being investigated. M.T.B. 34 and M.L. 106 now returning to Felixstowe and Yarmouth respectively for extensive refits.

6. M.T.B's and M.L's. There are now only three of these craft in each force instead of 4. In view of the various duties assigned to them 4 in each Force is considered the minimum that should be employed. There are no replacements in the Nore Command for the casualties. Further the R.N.V.R. personnel of the M.L's have not reached the stage of efficiency and skill that are really required for an operation of this sort. There are no other craft in this Command that can replace them.

7. Constant breakdown of Oilers is exerting a severe strain on their Officers and men. Much depends on the speed at which they can approach their objective. One would like it to be 14 or 15 knots. If due to recurrent defects it is below 9 knots their chances of success must be materially reduced. (C.in C. Nore 1430/5.)

What steps are being taken to overcome the defects and difficulties mentioned in your 1430/5.
In view of the number of M.T.B's and M.L's under your orders it is not clear why 8 cannot be provided.
(1st S.L. 1932/5. to C.in C. Nore.).

Reply to 1932/5. Doubtful if NIZAM can be ready for service before 7/10.

/ Explaining ....

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations. (Continued)

Explaining shortage of M.T.B's and necessity for using only those with silent engines. (C.in C. Nore 2120/5).

Operation "Medium" — A.L. H/F.D.O.9087/40 of 4/10. Asking for an asdic fitted submarine to be detailed and sent to Plymouth as soon as possible (C.in C. W.A. 1753/5). Requesting information of any minefields. Intended date and time of operation. Re-bombing target area. (C.in C. W.A. 1921/5) Reply to C.in C. W.A. 1753/5. Suggest URSULA takes part in operations (F.O. Submarines 2229/5)

EREBUS — Requesting proposals for an operation employing EREBUS in very near future (A.C.N.S.(H) 2210/8 to C.in C. Nore.)

Patrol — Patrol by tonight (C.in C. W.A. 1213/5 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Submarines

UTMOST — Re R.V. with SWORDFISH, WARWICK DEEPING and HUGH WALPOLE. (UTMOST 0236/5, 0441/5).

UPRIGHT — Orders (Capt. (S)5 0725/5)

SWORDFISH Attack on destroyer 1/10 — A buoy has now been placed in position of SWORDFISH's attack 49° 48' N. 1° 24 W. Asdic dome lost and has other docking defects (C.in C. Portsmouth 1147/5)

JUNON — Asking that her completion may have high priority (V.A.S. 1157/5).

UTMOST — To exchange patrol areas after 2000/5 on account of UTMOST's "singing" propeller (Capt. (S)5 1331/5).

Positions & Movements. — 0700/6. (V.A.S) 1712/5).

British Air Activity.

Fighter protection — BRITISH PROGRESS (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0842/5) C.in C. W.A. 1139/5). 5.M.V's, 2 French ships. Code word "Chain" (C.in C. Portsmouth 1148/5).

/Defence of .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

Defence of Fleet Base. My 1141/5. Re Grummans. Until reliability is proved defence of main fleet base should rest with a proved type of fighter aircraft. (C.in C. H.F. 1217/5).

Attacks on M.V's Large M.V. bombed 61° 18' N. 4° 50' E. No hits seen. Small coasting steamer machine gunned 61°4'N. 5°0'E. (Donibristle 1155/5).

CAVOTTE. CURACOA. SOUTHERN STAR. Expect 3 Blenheim fighters from 1800 until about 2000 (C.in C. Rosyth 1329/5).

Attacks on Escort vessels. 5/10 Blenheim on special R.C. attacked 2 ships of escort type in harbour at Utsire Island. No other operations carried out owing to unfavourable weather (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 2355/5).

Mining.

ADAPTITY mined. ~~M/V ADAPTITY (573 tons) Southend to Grimsby was blown up by a mine at 1130 in approx. 51° 43'. Caught fire and sank rapidly. Survivors can give no information about explosion. Master of ADAPTITY was killed and two of crew injured brought into Harwich by M/V ADAPTITY who was in company. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1806/5).~~

Enemy Air Activity.

Dover attacked twice Enemy aircraft dropped about 12 bombs in sea off Eastern Area 1249/5 (V.A. Dover 1404/5). At 1555/5 4 bombs dropped in harbour and 2 on military ground north of Castle. No casualties (V.A. Dover 1826/5)

WALLACE Attacked 52° 18'N. 1°59'E. by one aircraft, 5 bombs, no hits. (WALLACE 1726/5, 1729/5).

Convoy "Agent" Attacked 52° N. 1° E. by one enemy aircraft (C.in C. W.A. 1839/5).

Portland. Attack on Dockyard at 2021 by one or more machines which dropped about 10 bombs. One exploded on main road between Dockyard gate and power station, remainder fell in open spaces and in sea. Superficial damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2204/5) Details of damage (O.C.W. Portland 1600/6).

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Iceland. Proposal to operate Vatnsendi W/T Station (W.O. 1367/5).

Mining.

ADAPTITY mined. M/V ADAPTITY (372 tons) Southend to Grimsby was blown up by a mine at 1130 in approx. 51° 43'. Caught fire and sank rapidly. Survivors can give no information about explosion. Master of ADAPTITY was killed and two of crew injured brought into Harwich by M/V ACCLIVITY who was in company. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/5).

South Foreland. AC AC 1A reports mine believed German caught up in kite outer strings off South Foreland 0415/4. Mine believed swept at 0400 approx. 270° S. Goodwin Lt. V. 1 mile. At about this time WALNUT near South Goodwin Lt. V. 2 large explosions in sweep (C.in C. Nore 1158/5) Search sweep near South Goodwin Lt. V. from 1300 till dark. No mines cut (V.A. Dover 1934/5).

Blyth. Now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1434/5).

River Crouch No mine in river. Can safely be counter-mined. Request instructions (R.M.S.C. Great Yarmouth 1510/5).

3 M/S Trawlers. Off Eddystone. Asking for fighter protection, code word "Garnn" (C.in C. W.A. 1547/5).

Humber. Magnetic mine exploded 1043 near 63 D buoy (F.O. Humber1020/5) Humber closed to navigation mining suspected (F.O. Humber 2046/5).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Convoy	Convoy of 7 small M.Vs passed Peecump at 1215/3 course S.W. (UTMOST 0201/5 C. in C., Portsmouth 1157/5)
Ostend	Aircraft R.C. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1240/5)
Gravelines	Considerable activity. Docks, barges and M.T. concentrations to be attacked night 5/6. (H.Q.C.C. 1503/5)
2 Cruisers off Utsire	Aircraft sighted 2 vessels thought to be cruisers in 59° 8' N., 4° 26' E., at 1200 course 180° speed 15 to 20 knots (C. in C., Rosyth 1612/5, H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 2355/5)
Channel Is. Brest, Ushant Area	Aircraft R.C. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1715/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

SWORDFISH — See Submarines

RAVONIA — Aground Haisboro Sand (VERDUN 0615/5) Refloated and proceeding. An rejoining convoy (VERDUN 0650/5)

H.M.S.ASHMODEL — FLEUR DE LYS reports exchanged pendant at 0145 but not seen since. My position 56° 58' N., 8° 53' W., (SANDWICH 1130/5)

STORA — A/S Vessel. Grounded at Oban where she had gone to fuel. Damage. (WESTERN ISLES 1331/5, 1315/6)

DAPHNELLA — One Capetown 30/? not arrived (S.O. (1) Capetown 1705B/5)

MANGKAI — See South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET

5.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
H.X. 76	Meet. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1230/5, 1830/5) Route from R.V. (D.T.D. 1308/5)
O.A. 224	Position (A.C.O.S. 1333/5) PHILANTE to meet (C. in C., W.A., 1353/5) 1 trawler to meet O.A. 224 and HASTINGS (C. in C., W.A., 1357/5)
S.L. 48	Not met. Position. (FLEETWOOD 1730/5)
S.H.X. 78	War-material in certain ships. (N.C.S.O. Sydnet C.B. 1053/5)
S.C. 7.	Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1559/5 1601/5)
S.C. 8.	Route (D.T.D. 1850/5)
H.X. 74	On time at R.V., 31 ships (D.T.D. 1851/5)
H.X. 80	Route (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1046/5
O.B. 224	List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1551/5)
H.G. 45	List and destinations (F.O.C.N.A., 1231/5)
W.N. 21	To be sailed in 2 portions (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1815/5)
O.B. 226	Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1700/5)
O.R. 227	Route (D.T.D. 1245/5)
H.X. 78	Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1109/5 N.O.I.C. Halifax 1104/5)
S.H.X. 79	Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1430/5)
O.B. 217	Your 1724/4 Convoy O.B. 217 Commodore Swabey signal 1210/22 and 2121/14 all passed to Commodore in P/L. Regret no previous definite information but expressed opinion of several Commodores. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1035/5 to Admty.)

TROOP CONVOYS

W.S. 3.	S.O.I. Freetown's 1603/4 (CUMBERLAND to R.V. with W.S. 3.) CUMBERLAND's broadcast not received. Convoy delayed at least 24 hours by gales. Position at 0900/5. (SHEFFIELD 1001/5) My 1949/4. Route for W.S. 3. Past, amended. (C. in C., W.A., 1147/5) (N.C.S.O., Liverpool 1341/5) Liverpool Section date. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1611/5) Destroyers with W.S. 3. have to and parted company 2100/4. Position of W.S. 3. at 1400/5 Full S.W. gale. (SHEFFIELD, 1411/5) CUMBERLAND sailes 1300/4 for Ocean escort W.S. 3. relieving SHEFFIELD (position and date) (C. in C., S.A. 1239/3 Reed 1649/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd

WORCESTERSHIRE — To take 250 troops to Reykjavik on 12/10. (D.O.D. (H) 1924/5)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN — 530 troops for Iceland, to leave Clyde 12/10 Codeword ROBIN (D.O.D. (H) 1925/5)

Cargo Space — Your 1737/3. No objection to loading of commercial cargo but as vessels are urgently required in U.K. request delay involved is reduced to minimum possible. (D.O.D.(F) 1220/5 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Coastwise Convoys Escorts — C. in C., W.A's 1553/4. As O.A. convoys are to be abolished, I presume that E.N. and W.N. Convoys are referred to in para 4. Not understood why these difficulties should vanish if the responsibility were shifted to me.
Admty.1906/4/10 outlines an arrangement whereby convoy escorts change off the Clyde. It would therefore seem right that the convoys and escorts should be run from there Consider the escort outlined in para 3 N.O. Admty. 1906/4 quite inadequate both in numbers and armament.
Re fast and slow convoys being run on alternate days,as pointed out in my 1747/27/9 accepted by Admty. 1930/3/10, this was not possible with the number of escorting ships available.
Re Rosyth escort force, none of these ships are being refitted and the greater part of them are destroyers built between 1916 and 1918. (C. in C., Rosyth 1131/5 to Admty.)

Coastwise Convoys — Very limited scale of escort proposed ignores the practical aspect of convoy. Not possible for two Trawlers to control let alone protect a convoy of 30 or 40 ships particularly when in single line Would appear that sufficient A/S trawlers should be available to provide more than two per convoy.
Statement re coal stocks very disappointing in view of the success which has been achieved by Merchant Navy, R.N. and R.A.F. in maintaining the flow of trade on the East Coast. (figures) (C. in C., H.F. 1139/5 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations against Vichy French

CORNWALL
Duala

CORNWALL sailing 0700 Z/5. Your 2101N/4 is being passed to KENT via N.C.S.O. Duala and KELT has not been told route of M.T. convoy. KELT has been instructed that unless she received definite orders to join convoy she is to be on A/S patrol to southwards of Victoria by early dawn 7/10 until completion of disembarkation. If really urgent for KELT to have definite sailing orders before 7/10 I will have to return to vicinity of Cameroons River to pass message. (CORNWALL 0130Z/5 to C. in C., S.A. Amended 0814/5)

Libreville

Your 0130Z/5. Air reconnaissance of Libreville approved. Aircraft must remain unseen. After reconnaissance, return to Duala or vicinity. KELT to remain at Duala. (C. in C., S.A., 0405N/5 to CORNWALL)

BARHAM
Destroyers

Your 1801/4. FAULKNOR is 760 miles on way to Duala. BARHAM will probably sail within next 48 hours. For consideration request FORESIGHT whose W/T and A/S are out of action and cannot be repaired at Freetown (my 1055/2) should proceed to Gibraltar in addition to FORTUNE already detailed. (C. in C., S.A. 1607/5 to Adty.)
Your 1607/5. S.O.I. Freetown's 2005/2 reported FORESIGHT as having accompanied DEVONSHIRE. FORESIGHT should accompany BARHAM if ready as in my 0231/2. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 2209/5)

MILFORD

To report expected time of arrival and what ships are with her. (C. in C., S.A. 2247/5)

Troop Transport
WESTERNLAND

My 1815/1. Operation with de Gaulle force is arranged (? on basis of) transhipment of troops at Ambas Bay, Victoria, as large transports cannot enter Cameroons river, arrangements for official modification made with Governor, Nigeria. Final proposal is that all forces go to Duala as arranged except that de Gaulle asks that 500 troops shall go on to Pointe Noire in WESTERNLAND If WESTERNLAND. If WESTERNLAND goes to Pointe Noire consider she will require ocean and A/S escort as before. If force can be made available for longer period propose CORNWALL, instead of relieving the D class cruiser with M.T. Convoy, shall escort WESTERNLAND to Pointe Noire with destroyers when C.S.1. can release these. (C. in C., S.A., 1311/5 to Adty.)

My 1311.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

My 1311/5 Governor Nigeria reports WESTERNLAND can almost certainly berth alongside should certainly get well inside in smooth water. This information obtained from recent chart confirmed by Capt. American ship now in Lagos who has just arrived from Pointe Noire. (C. in C., S.A., 1723N/5)

PENNLAND
WESTERNLAND

My 1311N/5. De Gaulle in his communication also states "Later on Fore ign Legion, tanks and part of motor transport group will be sent to Middle East after arrangements to be concluded with London Government and General Wavell.
I ask therefore that PENNLAND and WESTERNLAND or at least one of them should remain at my disposal at Victoria for transport later of elements destined for Middle East"
If this proposal is agreed to movement will not take place for some time. No facilities for fuelling or protection at Victoria. Recommend that both ships return to Freetown or as required, neccessary transport for troops to Middle East being arranged later. (C. in C., S.A., 1313N/5)

"Alloy"
"Shrapnel"

Force "Alloy" will proceed Gibraltar as soon as Admiralty can arrange. Troops in Force "Shrapnel" remain Freetown and will disembark there as and when accommodation becomes available. (W.O. 1325/5 to G.O.C., W. Africa)

Force "A" H.Qs., Force H.Qs., Sig. Sec. and 10 Independent Coy. will not accompany "Alloy" but will await orders at Freetown. (W.O., 1500/5 to G.O.C., W. Africa)

Part of the force recently employed at Dakar consisting of two battalions Royal Marines and certain auxiliary troops totalling approximately 2000 will arrive Gibraltar in two ships on date to be notified. Stay in Gibraltar temporary. Unnecessary arrange accommodation ashore. (W.O. 1500/5 to Govr. Gibraltar)

When Force "Alloy" proceeds to sea essential Brig. Morford sails in BARHAM so that we can communicate with him. (W.O., 1755/5 to Force A and C. in C., S.A.)

/Treatment of.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Treatment of French Ships.

Following instructions issued to ships on South Atlantic Station regarding action to be taken when French Merchant Ships or Warships are met.
(a) Vichy French Warships if met at sea South of Dakar should be prevented from going to any French West Africa port. They should be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar
(b) Submarines are to be treated as hostile and sunk at sight if approaching any Free French Port. (?If) met at sea except in neutral territorial waters, they are to be treated as hostile unless on the surface and escorted. Surface warships escorting submarine are to be informed that any attempt by submarine to dive will be treated as a hostile act and immediate retaliatory action will be taken agnints surface ships and submarine.
(c) French merchant ships unless definitely established as under Free French control or proceeding in interests of Free French between Free French ports are to be sent in for examination.
Free French Territory to be regarded as French Cameroons and Equatorial Africa excluding Gabon (Libreville)
Important to prevent provisions, supplies and reinforcements from reaching Vichy French Ports in West Africa South of Dakar and Gabon in particular. (C. in C., S.A., 1957/5)

De Gaulle Plans

In telegram from Governor Nigeria, latter stated that De Gaulle's first object after landing at Duala would be to gain control of Libreville and that it was hoped to do this within one month.
If without specially consulting De Gaulle you can give me any idea as to how he intends to do this I shall be grateful.
If from the sea is it his intention that only Free French Naval Forces should be used or do you think his idea is that the British Navy should take part?
(1st S.L. 2218/5 to C.S.I)

/ French M/Vs.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French M/V's

2 French merchant vessels bearing 100° distance 60 miles from ALB (point of land used locally at Gibraltar) course 080° speed 8 knots. (F/B K. 5261, 1630/5)

1 French Elan bearing 190° Europa 10, course 280° speed 12 knots. (? 1635/5)

F/B 1630/5. Confirm that these ships if unescorted are being brought in. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 2129/5)

Following from Ambassador, Washington: Learn that several cargo vessels conveyed by destroyers cleared Dakar night of 30/9 for Marseilles. (1st S.L. 2217/5 to F.O.C.N.A)

Your 2129/5. Ships almost certainly those which passed Straits of Gibraltar under escort as in my 1517/4 and 1601/5. Of 4 destroyers, one in dock, one escorting NEURALIA, one searching for KINGSTON SAPPHIRE, believed torpedoed, and one with 2 trawlers maintaining inadequate Straits of Gibraltar patrol. Therefore no craft available to send such long distances. (F.O.C.N.A., 2324/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE
Torpedoed

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE armed boarding vessel (Trawler) reported torpedoed 36.11 N., 06.31 W., at about 0930 (F.O.C.N.A., 1237/5) Cannot be replaced from Northern Patrol. Request consideration to relieve Western Patrol trawlers at Gibraltar by 4 A/S trawlers or corvettes not from Northern Patrol. Vessels relieved can be fitted A/S on return and are required to reinforce Northern Patrol during winter months. (F.O.C.N.P., 1640/5) WRESTLER and KINGSTON TOPAZE searching from position 090° Cape Trafalgar 25' towards Cape St. Vincent tonight. Flying boat search at daylight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2225/5)

My 1237/5 and 1931/5. KINGSTON SAPPHIRE signal reporting her torpedoing was received in KINGSTON TOPAZE only at 0326/5 but not passed to Gibraltar till 1030. Further search by WRESTLER, KINGSTON TOPAZE and aircraft unsuccessful. Fear KINGSTON SAPPHIRE must be considered lost. Very remote possibility exists of survivors having been picked up by Spanish fishing boat or passing vessel. (F.O.C.N.A., 1220/6)

French Merchant Shipping

Telegram 456 to F.O., describes several French merchant vessels sneaking up the coast past Cape Spartel plying in territorial waters towards East unescorted Fears this new evasion of blockade may become serious if steps are not taken to intercept. (Mr Gascoigne, Tangier, Morocco, 1400/5)

South Atlantic

ALCANTARA

Your 1133/2. Can be taken in hand by Harland and Wolff, Southampton (date) (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1511/5)

MANGKAI

Your 0955B/3. Delayed repairing fire damage, Java. (D. of S.T. to S.O.I. Capetown, 1612/5)

MELTUNE

C. in C., E.I., 0538/4. To carry out search of Kerguelen before proceeding Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1649/5)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA

Re despatch of relief officers and ratings to Freetown. (D. of S.T., 1606/5)

/A.P. 3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

A.P. 3. — CLAN MACARTHUR and ULSTER PRINCE, which arrived Capetown 5/10, cannot maintain speed of 15½ knots. Intend sailing with CARNARVON CASTLE as escort to join CLAN CAMPBELL, Durban. Propose sail from Durban as A.P. 3. Slow with KANIMBLA as escort. A.P. 3. fast from Capetown with CANTON as escort will R.V. with CARTHAGE at 0700 G.M.T./9. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1113Z/5)

Overdue Ship — DAPHNELLA due Capetown 30/9 not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1705B/5)

BRECONSHIRE Orders — Following is a repetition of my 2247/5. BRECONSHIRE is to proceed 1600 for Capetown at speed of advance 17 knots by following route. To arrive end searched channel at 1200/14. (C. in C., S.A., 2113/5)

Mediterranean

Aircraft — My 1824/27/9. 18 Brewsters being shipped via Cape, additional to Gladiators named in my 1908/9/9. (5th S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1806/5)

Destroyers — Now proposed GREYHOUND, GALLANT, GRIFFIN and HOTSPUR should accompany BATHAM to join your flag, on assumption that you do not require another Capt. (D) (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med., 1923/5)

S/M Patrols — Operation B.S. 2 patrol lines to be established. (Capt. S. 1. to S/M's. 1953/5) Further orders to submarines. (Capt S.1. 1955/5)

Enemy Convoys — Glen Martin Aircraft on reconnaissance from Malta reported convoy of 8 merchant ships probably unladen, in 37.50 N., 16.05 E., off Cape Spartivento, at 1525/5, course E. (D.S. 397)
Aircraft on reconnaissance reported 7 merchant ships and 3 destroyers in Benghazi Harbour, and 3 merchant ships and 1 destroyer at anchor ½ mile N.W. of harbour. 3 ships in harbour seen to be damaged. In Tobruk, 4 merchant ships (D.S. 397)

Tobruk Bombed — Dusk attack on Tobruk. Bombs hit small ships at jetties, damage not observed. (D.S. 397)

/TIGRIS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranenn-Contd.

TIGRIS Attack — Attacked 3 Italian U-Boats, Italian Submarine SANTORRE SANTAROSSA, 2 patrol vessels believed to be French sloop M/S KLAN, entering Matelier Pass 0700. Sank one Italian U-Boat., (TIGRIS, 2022/5)

French Ships — My 2225/2 and 1327/4. Sailing of these groups of ships from Marseilles postponed to 8/10 and 10/10 respectively. (C. in C., Med., 2018/5)

East Indies

LEANDER Bombed — LEANDER escorting Convoy B.N. 6. bombed about 40' S. of Jebel Zubair Is. Red Sea at 1230 (D.S. 397)

K.D. 1. — Convoy K.D. 1. LLANGIBBY CASTLE and LLANSTEPHEN CASTLE, escorted by CERES, to leave Mombasa fro Durban 6/10. Route. (C. in C., E.I., 0632Z/5)

Raiders — Your 1440Z/30. Admiralty appreciation of raider activities in your waters as follows:-
(a) One raider known to have sunk HAXBY west of Azores on 24/4,, laid mines off Cape early in May, proceeded to New Zealand, laid mines off Auktland and captured TROPIC SEA on 18/6 Still in Pacific at end of June when TROPIC SEA parted company, and up till then had made no further captures.
Probable she has remained in Eastern Pacific and sank or captured French NOTOU about 14/8 and TURAKINA on 20/8.
(b) Second raider possibly sank SCIENTIST in South Atlantic about 3/5 and then entered Indian Ocean, being responsible for sinkings South of Ceylon in mid-July and afterwards the sinkings South and East of Madagascar.
(c) Agree as to possibilities referred to in your para. (C). (D.D.I.C., 1129/5 to C. in C., E.I.)

B.S. 6. — Convoy sailing telegram (S.N.O. Suez Canal 1224/5)

A.P. 3. — Admty. 0043/29 and my 1232/1. Intend SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO and 2 destroyers to escort A.P. 3. through Red Sea danger area. Same escort less one destroyer will escort CLAN CAMPBELL (Convoy A.P. 3½) (C. in C., E.I., 1230Z/5)

/KANIMBLA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

A.P. 3½ Contd. — KANIMBLA required to escort CLAN CAMPBELL from Durban to longitude of Aden, where Red Sea Force will take over. Convoy known as A.P. 3½ (date and route) CLAN CAMPBELL will not call at Aden. (C. in C., E.I., 1232Z/5)

China

Stores for Chungking — Your 1359/21, transport of stores for U.S Embassy and U.S. gunboat at Chungking via Burma Road. Matter also raised by British Ambassador to China, and necessary arrangements are proceeding. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 1203/5)

Financial Measures — My 1036Z/1. Views of M. de Schompre on use of financial weapon in Indo-China. Suggesting conference of British, American and Free French bankers to promulgate plan. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/5)

MANGKAI — Dutch (ex German SCHEER) Your 0955/3. Ship has returned to Sourabaya for repairs. (S.O.I., Singapore, to S.O.I., Capetown, 0857/5)

America & West Indies

HAKOZAKI MARU — Your 1121/4. Japanese HAKOZAKI MARU may be released provided (A) you are satisfied (1) as in my 1237/4 concerning Japanese HAKONE MARU (2) that no uncertificated cargo was loaded at Lisbon (B) that any mails embarked at Lisbon are removed for examination (C) that passengers if any are examined. (D.E.W.D. 1849/5 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

U.S. Destroyers (Canada) — Your 1216/3. Asking how Admty. can help with personnel. Courses in American torpedoes being formed in VERNON. Glad to include any R.C.N. ratings. (1st S.L. to C.N.S., Ottawa) 2319/5)

U-Boat — Sighted in West Indies. (N.A. Washington 1213/5- see U-Boat Campaign)

Australia

U.S. 6.
U.S. 7. — Proposed composition (D. of S.T., to A.C.N.B 1921/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARAUCA — At Port Everglades, Florida. Re-attacked on a claim for 24,000 dollars. 2 further claims for £13,000 and £8,000 will be pressed if the 24,000 dollar claim is paid. (D.S. 397)

GERMANIA — At Ponta Delgada, Azores, asked Standard Oil Co., New Jersey to supply 60 tons of oil. Request refused. (D.S. 397)

KLAUS SCHOKE — Showing indication of preparations to leave Horta, Azores. (D.S. 397)

BRANDENBURG — Small steamer. Informed by Ruegen Station at 1240/5 not to put into Stettin before night of 6/10 as disembarkation of passengers cannot take place before 7/10. (D.S. 397)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LEME — At Portland, Oregon. General cargo discharged. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1447/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

OTTOLAND — Dutch, 2202 tons, in F.S. 100, holed by explosion believed torpedo, at approx 0330/5 in position 4 miles south of 20 A Buoy. Sank at 1430/5 in 54° 50½' N., 00° 53' W., All crew saved. No injuries. Survivors picked up by H.M.P. M/S GLENGOWER and landed at North Shields. (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 2032/5) Explosion occurred in 54.47 N., 1.07 W., (D.S. 397)

Explosion on board (C.in C., Rosyth 0422/5, intercept 0245 G.M.T.) Still afloat crew still on board explosion foreship (Cullercoats, intercept 0344 G.M.T., Recd. Adty 0507/5) Still aflost between 20 A Buoy and 20 Buoy requires assistance. (Rosyth, Rec. Adty. 0700/5)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE — Armed boarding vessel, eported torpedoed (See North Atlantic) Presumably torpedoed by Italian U-Boat 36.11 N., 6.32 W., at 0930/5. (D.S. 397)

Submarines Reported

1210-1417 — 51.30 N., 20.00 W., at 1210, unreliable fix (C. in C., W.A., to SHEFFIELD and HARVESTER 1303/5, D.D.I.C. 1300/5)

1215 — 53.54 N., 00.15 E., reported by trawler escort of F.N. 99. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1700/5

1035 — 57.58 N., 11.59 W., at 1035 (C. in C., W.A. 1847/5 to SCIMITAR etc., and 1859/5 to all ships Area B)

1613 — 52.40 N., 23° W., indefinite position, say 480° W of Valencia. (D.S. 397)

2028 — 49.30 N., 11.30 W., relisble position, 214° Mastnet 132' (D.S. 397)

1300 — 50.17 N., 3.34 W., reported by observer Corps (C.3.) (D.S. 397)

American & West Indies

Navy have received wireless report from SS BROOKLYN HEIGHTS of sighting submarine in 25.38' N., 66.30' W., at 1330/5 and a clinker built lifeboat with no name at 0800 same day. Submarine not American. (N.A.Washington, 1213/5)

/Estimated.....

MOST S.

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- No further news.

German- 1 may arrive Lorient night 5/6th
1 may be in vicinity of Porcupine Bank, course Northerly.
1 in about 52 N., 22 W. at 1209/4 and 1 about 90 miles further North at 0206/5.
1 in about 55 N. 18 W at 1607/4
1 to Westward of Rockall
1 may pass Muckle Fluggn homeward night 5/6th
No further news of U/B N.W. of Malin Head.
(D.D.I.C. 1311/5)

Submarines Attacked

1042 — By VANITY 53.53 N., 0.24 E., attacked contact (A.3.) 027° Spurn Point 18' (D.S.397)

0700 Italian U/B Sunk — Attacked 3 Italian U-Boat Italian submarine SANTORRE SANTAROSSA 2 patrol vessels believed to be French sloop M/S ELAN entering Matelier Pass 0700. Sank one Italian U/B (TIGRIS 2022/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Dover Straits Patrol

In view of the reduction of forces available at Portsmouth, patrol of Dover Straits by Portsmouth destroyers will only be carried o out on special occasions.
Two or three destroyers from the Nore Command will carry out an intermittent patrol on two nights a week and whenever weather conditions and intelligence suggest the enemy may be encountered.

Destroyers to reinforce H.M.Approaches Escort Force

Sailing of SARDONYX from Portsmouth was postponed 24 hours on account of weather. SALADIN has developed defects requiring 10 days to make good, and STURDY is boiler cleaning.

2nd Towns Flotilla

This Flotilla is now reduced by a third vessel, ROXBURGH (ex FOOTE) having to return to St. John's N.F. this afternoon with defects.

Convoy Tactics

In view of the present U-Boat tactics it is considered that no useful purpose is served in convoys of under 11 knots carrying out a zig-zag. More use is to be made, instead, of evasive steering.

Enemy Intelligence

Reconnaissance shows that a continuous patrol of E-Boats assisted by M.Ls is maintained within 13 miles of Cape de la Hague.

British Air Activity

Operations last night were adversely affected by the weather. Shipping was bombed at Rotterdam. One aircraft bombed Flushing. Coastal Command attacked shipping, quays and dry docks at Brest with effect, and barges at Gravelines.

Patrols today were seriously curtailed by the weather. Aircraft on offensive reconnaissance attacked Ostend, Calais, Boulogne, Den Helder, Stavoren, Enkhuisen and Dordrecht, damaging barges and a ship.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

A further attack was made on West India Dock during the early hours of this morning and a serious fire was caused.

Ford Naval Air Station was attacked last night, but there was no damage.

Coaster FIRECREST was bombed and machine gun gunned by a single enemy aircraft this afternoon, 2½ miles S.W. of Sunk L.V. Nine bombs were dropped with no apparent damage, but the ship's Lewis gunner died of wounds from machine gun fire.

Mining

R.A.F. last night laid mines in the Elbe Estuary and at a position 15 miles N.E. of Heligoland. Two of the four aircraft engaged in the operations did not report to base.

Minelaying be enemy aircraft was carried out last night from the Humber to the Thames Estuary.
The Humber was reopened at 1001 today.

SS JERSEY QUEEN was mined and sunk early this morning off St. Anthony Point (Falmouth) in the swept channel, in the contact minefield laid by enemy destroyers during the night 28/29 September.

North Atlantic

French destroyer FLEURET was sighted this morning off Europa Point steering westward Later in the forenoon M/S sloop DELAGE, escorting two French merchant ships, passed Gibraltar west to east.

N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports that about 24 ships are sailing independently during 7/10 and 8/10 from ports in Portugal, to join Convoy H.C. 45 at Gibraltar, that German agents are spreading many threats.

/F.O.C.N.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic-Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. is unable to provide any protection on this occasion or so long as part of 13th D.F. is required for Force H. (Four Destroyers of 13th D.F. must always be available at short notice for S.O. Force H during absence of 8th D.F. with force H.

The reappearance of U-Boats in the Western Approaches to Gibraltar is probably due to the reduced number of vessels available for Straits Patrol. Until the return of 8th D.F. F.O.C.N.A. is unable to maintain continuous extended patrol to the eastward of Gibraltar, which is necessary to give S.O.Force H. adequate warning of the approach of enemy or French surface vessels. The maximum reconnaissance effort of available aircraft does not guarantee adequate warning over 24 hours.

South Atlantic

BARHAM left Freetown for Gibraltar this evening, with ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, ECHO, FORTUNE and 2 transports.

East Indies

LEANDER and Convoy B.N. 6. were again bombed early this morning in the southern part of the Red Sea but were undamaged.

3 Blenheims attacked Massawa today, but bombs fell short and did no damage.

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

1st TOWNS Flotilla

Your 1309/6 1940/4 and my 2018/1.

936. It is very desirable that first Flotilla Town class Destroyers shall carry out working up practices and obtain experience in Approaches as soon as practicable. It is estimated that a period of about 14 days will be required to fit VC-VF and in order to prevent further delay it is intended to defer ifttting this gear until ships are taken in hand for fitting asdics and other necessary alterations. (C.in C. W.A. 0134/6 to Adty.).

Small Craft Refits.

Local small craft may now be taken in hand for normal Routine Refits. (1st S.L. 1432/6 to C's-in-C.)

Anti-Mine Precautions in Western Approaches.

Your 1921/5. Mines are believed to exist in Area laid down in 91 QZX. In view of Magnetic Mines laid by Germans in the Approaches, Capital Ships and Cruisers should keep outside 20 fathoms and Destroyers outside 10 fathoms. (D.D.I.C. 1847/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals

C. in C. Portsmouth's 2243/5. I agree. Should be quite willing to take over Dover Patrol subject to (1) Patrol to be intermittent of 2 or 3 Destroyers on 2 or 3 nights a week depending on other Nore Destroyer commitments and (2) Route Southward from N. Foreland to be kept clear of Mines by Dover Sweepers.
(C.in C. Nore 1000/6 to Adty.). Consider advantageous for Patrol to be carried out from Nore as proposed. Routes in Dover Area are already swept by Dover Sweepers.
(V.A. Dover 1103/6 to Adty.)

My 1280/16.
C.in C. Portsmouth's 2243/5 and C.in C. Nore's 1000/6.
In view of reduction of forces available at Portsmouth, patrol of Dover Straits by forces of Portsmouth Command will only be carried out on special occasions.
2. C.in C. Nore requested arrange for an intermittent patrol consisting of 2 or 3 destroyers on two nights a week and whenever the weather conditions and intelligence available suggest the enemy may be encountered.

/ 3. V.A. Dover .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Continued).

3. V.A. Dover requested to keep route to the southward of the North Foreland swept by the minesweepers based on Dover. (A.C.N.S. H. 1740/6).

Rosyth Small Craft. Notice for Steam.

Minesweepers and A/S vessels based on Granton to keep steam as in my 1217/1/10. Signal will be made daily at 1600 ordering Notice for Steam during dark hours of all other small craft in Rosyth Command. (C.in C. Rosyth 1207/6.)

Movements.

KENYA — To sail from Scapa 1900/7, course, speed, to R.V. with Convoy W.S.3 fast in (position) (date), C.in C. W.A. to arrange A/S air escort from daylight 8/10 as far along the route as possible (C.in C. H.F. 0953/6)

PHILANTE — Sailed 6/10 Tobermory in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1355/5 (WESTERN Isles 1100/6)

VETERAN — Intend to sail from Sheerness for Harwich 1300/7 (C.in C. Nore 1130/6)

SALOPIAN — Will pass Bar Lt. V. 1600/6. Route. Speed. (SALOPIAN 1150/6) Adty. 1150/6. For 1600/6, read 1000/7 (SALOPIAN 1855/6).

SALADIN — has developed defect in steering engine that will take 10 days to make good.

STURDY — is being taken in hand for boiler cleaning.

SARDONYX — will be sailed for Plymouth p.m./6. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/6, C.in C. W.A. 1625/6)
Note. Above 3 ships are to join N.W. Approaches Escort Force see C.in C. Portsmouth 1237/5.
Sailing of SARDONYX postponed 24 hours owing to weather (C.in C. Portsmouth 1657/6.)

Dover Patrols. — Night 6/7 (V.A. Dover 1430/6).

/ ANTHONY .....

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

ANTHONY H.X.75	Destroyers to Clyde on passing. Trawlers to Belfast. Corvettes to Liverpool with convoy (C.in C. W.A. 1447/6 to ANTHONY).
VERSATILE VISCOUNT WITHERINGTON	If fit for service, to join inward escort of ARK ROYAL, ARGUS when weather permits. Report situation. (C.in C. W.A.1507/6.) See Casualties and Defects.
Orkneys	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S.1531/6)
Northern Patrol	Trawler line occupied 6/10 (A.C.O.S. 1536/6).
PINTAIL	Left Harwich 1553/6 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1559/6)
M/S drifters for Belfast	Asking for fighter protection for SILVER SEAS, NORTHERN WAVE, ARAB, ST. KENAN, NORTHERN SPRAY, 0630/7 to 0700/9. Ports of departure. Positions 1430/7 to 0700/9. N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1710/6)
ARGUS	Adty. 1931/4. Request early information of departure of ARGUS for Iceland (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1942/6)
ROXBURGH.	My 1412/3. Is returning to St. John's, N.F., as excessive fuel consumption on first 2 days showed destination could not be reached. (B.S.3. 1646/6 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Operation LUCID

Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 0924/6 to D.16, etc.)
Parm. 10. Request Zero Time for 7/8 be transmitted in time for sailing orders to be signalled and Fighter protection arranged, before Ships sail. (C.in C. Nore 0954/6 to Adty.).
Prepare to carry out LUCID tomorrow night 7/8. Zero hour will be 0240/8.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1705/6 to C.in C. Nore).

EREBUS

Your 2210/5. Propose EREBUS shoot at Gris Nez guns on same night as LUCID opening fire at zero hour plus 15 minutes. This is feasible only if Ostend attack is cancelled to provide destroyer escort for EREBUS. Consider that EREBUS will form a better diversion and the cancellation of Ostend will be no loss. Request early approval.
(C.in C. Nore 1226/6 to Adty.)

Your 1226/6. It is very undesirable to introduce any complications into Operation LUCID. Request you forward proposals for operating EREBUS without interfering with LUCID. (1st S.L. 1929/6 to C.in C. Nore)

Operation D.N.

Periodical raids by own Destroyers and possibly Cruisers against Enemy Shipping between Skadesness and Lister are intended. Particulars and Routes. Submarines will be warned and if practicable will be moved clear. (Capt. S.9. 1557/6 to RUBIS and O.23).

Iceland.

Adty. 1931/4. Request early information of date of departure for Iceland.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1942/6 to Adty.)

Operation MEDIUM

Cover for W S 3.

It has been intended to sail one cruiser and at least three destroyers of Fifth Destroyer Flotilla on 8/10 to cover convoy W S 3 fast from attack by enemy destroyers at Brest. This, however, would leave me insufficient modern destroyers for operation MEDIUM. Intend therefore not to sail covering force for W S 3 fast unless air reconnaissance fails to locate enemy in Brest. If these are sailed propose that operation MEDIUM should be postponed until after return of covering force.
(C.in C. W.A. 2017/6 to Adty.)

/Iceland .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Iceland — Suggest I approach Icelandic Government to allow us to take over dismantled W/T station at Vatnsendi for communication with U.K. Advantages of securing this station. Have you any objection. (Alabaster, Reykjavik 1357/5 to War Office)

Submarines

PORPOISE — Movements. (Capt. S.2. 1107/6)

O.21 — Movements. (Capt. S.9 1121/6)

SWORDFISH — My 1147/5. SWORDFISH reports continuous E.Boat Patrols off Cape de la Hague, and her attack at 0944/1 on 4 Enemy Destroyers in 49° 48' N. 1°24'W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1127/C to Adty.)

O.22 — Movements. (Capt. S.9. 1417/6).

Greenock Area. — Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1522/6)

URSULA. — Movements. (Cpt. S.5. 1703 to URSULA)

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0700/7. (V.A.S. 1714/6).

British Air Activity.

Rotterdam Docks, Flushing — Attacked by Aircraft, Night 5/6. (H.Q.B.C. 1727/6).

Hore. — Night R/C not flown owing to weather. (C.in C. Hore 0507/6 to C.in C. Rosyth)

Rosyth. — Patrols SAZE, SAIE, and W1 cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0908/6 to Adty.) No S.A. Patrols being flown this evening owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1814/6 to Adty.)

/Newlyn Trawlers .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Newlyn Trawlers — Request Air Ministry be informed that Belgian Trawlers working from Newlyn now have Lewis Guns and that all British aircraft be warned not to approach them. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1046/6 to Adty.)

Helder Havre to Cherbourg — Following two Patrols against Shipping to be carried out at dusk to-day. (H.Q.C.C. to 16 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.

FIRECREST. — Coaster, reports attacked by one Aircraft at 1330/6, 2½ miles S.W. of Sunk L.V. 9 Bombs dropped, no damage, then machine-gunned killing one gunner. (C.in C. Nore 2105/6 to Adty.).

Mining.

JERSEY QUEEN — British, 910 tons. Mined and sunk 1½ miles South of St. Anthony Point. 10 survivors landed at Falmouth, 2 missing. Position unreliable. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0530/6 to Adty.).

S.N. 10 A. / S.N. 6 A. and 10 B. / S.N. 3. — Owing to loading situation propose to lay in that order. (R.A.N.L. 0944/6 to Adty.).

S.N. 10. — As far as can be foreseen, Escort from 20th D.F. can be available on any date you desire. (C.in C. Nore 0950/6 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Humber. — Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1001/6 to Adty.).

CADET TWO. — Will be operating in Eastern Approaches to 1400/7. Request Air Cover. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1559/6 to H.Q.F.C.)

Thames Estuary. — Coaster ROBUST reports two large underwater Explosions at 0600/6 in 51° 30' 6"N. 1°27' 6"E. No damage. (C.in C. 1757/6 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Havre, Fecamp, Dieppe, Boulogne	R/C by Aircraft at 1705/5. (P.I.U.0309/6 to N.I.D.)
Cherbourg, Lorient, Cape de la Hague, Brest	Naval Forces seen P.M./5. (A.D.I.C. 0915/6)
Boulogne.	Shipping in Outer Harbour at 1100/6. (P.I.U. 1640/6 to N.I.D.). (P.I.U.1747/6 to N.I.D.
Seine Bay.	My 1126/2. Torpedo Bomber Patrol at dusk between Le Havre and Cherbourg. (V.A.S. 1733/6 to Submarines on Patrol B).
Calais, Dunkirk, Zeebrugge, Ostend, Gravelines.	Shipping and Barges at 1145/6. (P.I.U. 1836/6 to N.I.D.)
Calais, Boulogne, Ihaine, Harlingen Stavoren.	Shipping and Barges at 0748 to 1100/6. (H.Q.B.C. 1727/6).
Holder, Ijmuiden.	Shipping seen A.M./6 (H.Q.B.C.1727/6).

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

PRIMULA. Corvette. Requires escort to port owing to shortage of fuel and extensive damage by gale. Request which port. (C.in C.W.A. 0057/6 to Adty.). Can be taken in hand at Birkenhead on 10/10. (P.O.D. H. 1351/6 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOUNT TAYGETUS. Greek, 3286 tons. About 10 miles East of St. Govens Light Vessel, oil supply gone and unable raise steam. Ship drifting for 2 hours. (Scapa Base Ship 0047/6). Anchors holding. Will call later only if necessary. (MOUNT TAYGETUS 0157 to Burnham-on-Sea Radio). Require assistance urgently. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0855/6 to Admiralty). Position 5 miles East of St. Govens Head. Rolling heavily. Request 2 tugs. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 1252 to Adty.) Managed raise steam. Trying proceed Swansea but position doubtful. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 1759 to Adty.) Steam gone again. Can you confirm tugs leaving Swansea at 1930 (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 2057/6 to Adty.)

DANIELLA British Tanker, 8078 tons. My 1705/5. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1005 R/6.)

ANTELOPE. C.in C. W.A. 1037/4. (Escort for W.S.3) Main steam joint blowing. Estimate Ship will be delayed 48 hours. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1150/6 to Adty.)

BROCKLEY HILL. British, 5297 tons. Damaged by collision ex Convoy H.X.75 arrived here escorted by A/S Trawler LADY ELSA. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1125/6 to N.O.I.C. Belfast). Details of damage. Master considers he can make Clyde if escorted. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1154/6 to Adty.)

EILEEN EDNA LADY BRASSEY sailed at 0800/6 to her assistance and returned to harbour at 1220. (V.A. Dover 1221/6 to Adty.).

ROXBURGH. See Movements.

SALADIN. My 1237/5. Has defect in steering-engine that will take 10 days to make good. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/6 to A.C.W.A.).

/BRITTANY COAST .....

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (Continued).

BRITTANY COAST. Stem buckled and 4 feet flooded. Unseaworthy until temporarily repaired which will take 6 or 7 days. Full general cargo is undamaged. (Chief Salvage Officer 1535/6 to A.C.O.S.)

BANGKAL. (Ex German SCHEER.) Your 0956/3. Ship has returned to Sourabaya for repairs. (S.O.I. Singapore 0857/5 to S.O.I. Cape Town).

EASTERN PRINCE. British, 10,926 Tons. Starboard engine broken down. Speed reduced to 8 knots. My position 56° 41'N. 8° 5' W. steering 141° at 8 knots. (WHITEHALL 1939/6 to C.in C. W.A.).

VERSATILE. Your 1507/6. Unseaworthy. D.G. and A.S. out of action and serious Oil-Fuel Leaks into living spaces. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1966/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

VISCOUNT. Your 1507/6. Seaworthy, but requires dockyard assistance to make good urgent defects. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1955 to C.in C. W.A.)

WITHERINGTON. Your 1507/6. Has defective Evaporator. Repair will take at least 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1956/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

SCOTCH THISTLE. H.M. Drifter. Sailed Lowestoft 1300/5 due Burnham-on-Crouch 6/10, grounded off Frinton, abandoned near Whitaker L.V. 6/10, and seems to have refloated. 11 men, believed entire crew, reported in S.S. IPSWICH TRADER at Southend. Search being made for Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2254/6 to C.in C. Nore) (C.in C. Nore 1055/7 to F.O. Harwich) Ship seen by IPSWICH TRADER to sink 1 mile N.E. by N. of Whitaker L.V. (C.in C. Nore 1859/7 to Adty.).

THISTLEMEAD. British, 6272 tons. Seized on 9/4 in dry dock at Trondheim. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (A.S. 398)

/ SALERNO .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (continued)

SALERNO. British, 1211 tons. Captured in Sanda Fiord off Stavanger with cargo of metal. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 396).

SALMON POOL. British, 5751 tons. Seized without cargo in Sanda Fiord. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court (D.S. 396).

ST. DENIS. British, 2435 tons. Fired and sunk by her crew when Rotterdam was captured. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to be salvable and repairable and to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 396).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping.
F.N. 100	Submarine H.44 included in. (C.in C. Rosyth 0941/6).
F.H. and F.S.	Additionnal escorts for Convoys 2 to 9. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1107/6 amended 2301/6).
O.B. 224.	9 hours late at R.V. Meet. Position. (C.in C. W.A. 1440/6).
H.X. 75 B.	Estimated position at 1800/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1420/6).
H.C. 45.	Protection (see North Atlantic).
H.X. 76.	To be met by SCIMITAR, etc. (C.in C. W.A. 1320/6).
W.N. 22.	CLEMENCAU, ammunition transport, to join. (D.T.D. 1206/6).
O.A. 226.	Route. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0851/7).
O.A. 223.	Not met. My position. (HEARTSEASE, 1225/6). To disperse after passing 58° 30' N. 25° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1350/6).
H.X. 78.	ASSINIBOINE arrived from local escort. (S.O.I. Halifax, 0911/6).
O.A. 225.	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0801/6) Escort etc. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0802/6 To disperse after passing 58° N., 25° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1340/6).
W.N. 21.	Code words "Rusty" (S) and "Clock" (F). (C. in C. W.A. 1020/6).
H.X. 77.	Route. (D.T.D., 1130/6) Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1817/6).
O.B. 227.	Route. (D.T.D., 1137/6).
H.X. 75.	Destroyers to Clyde, trawlers to Belfast, corvettes to Liverpool with convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1447/6)

/ S.C.7 .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping. (Continued)

S.C. 7.

Date and position, escort SCARBOROUGH (D.T.D., 2342/6).

O.L. 6.

Times of arrival. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1543/6).

BRITISH ENGINEER)
BRITISH SCOUT)

Intend sailing 2000/6 for Hamble. Escort (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1154/6). Cancelled, weather. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1515/6).

ARISTOCRAT

Intend sailing with W.N. 31. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1750/6).

Routes

Admty. 1146/8/8 and 1648/7/9. Cancelling para 6 and substituting new route. (D.T.D. 1555/6).

WORCESTERSHIRE.

N.P. 19. Position at 1100/7. (WORCESTERSHIRE, 0701/6).

W.S.3.

KENYA to R.V. with. (C.in C. H.F. 0953/6).
Escort for W.S.3 Fast. (C.in C. W.A. 1923/6).

Zigzagging.

Ref. A.M.S.I. 68 in view of present U/Boat tactics, considered no useful purpose served in convoys of under 11 knots carrying out a zig-zag. Amended instructions (D.T.D. 1933/6).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

De Gaulle Plans — Reply to Admty. 2218/5. De Gaulle appears confident use of R.N. will be available to him "on demand". Escort of troops to Point Noire Bay will be asked for an/is advisable, but have accepted no commitments for this. (F.O.I.C.S. 0245/6)

"Alloy" for Gibraltar — BARHAM, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, ECHO, FORTUNE to escort ETTRICK, KARANJA to Gibraltar at 1800/6. Route (C. in C., S.A., 0921N/6 amended 1755N/6) Sailed (S.C.I., Freetown, 2001N/6) W.O. has informed O.C. troops, Freetown, that Brigadier Norford should sail in BARHAM to facilitate communications. BARHAM and transports sailing 1800 today. Brig. Norford and Capt. Waller R.N., will sail in BARHAM unless orders to contrary. (C. in C., S.A., to Admty. 1237N/6)

Force A. — Headquarters closed. Communications to be addressed Freetown (Force A., Sierra Leone 1230/6) From Force A "Alloy" sailed 1800/5 (Comdr. Sierra Leone Area, to W.O., 0006/7)

AUSTRALIA — Admty. 1913/4. Intend to abandon patrol 2359/2/7. (AUSTRALIA's 1362/6)

Destroyers — Your 2209/5 and my 1607/5. FORESTER was sailed Freetown 1100/3 to relieve FORESIGHT with 1st C.S. FORESIGHT will not now return in time to sail with BARHAM. Intend FORESIGHT shall sail with INGLEFIELD and ECLIPSE in accordance with your 0231/2 paragraph (E) (C. in C., S.A., 1405/6 to Admty.)

DORSETSHIRE Patrol — My 1427/29. My 1857/4 to Governor Gold Coast. DORSETSHIRE sails Freetown 0930/7 for Takoradi, thence to patrol to intercept Vichy French shipping possibly proceeding Gabon. (C. in C., S.A., 2149N/6)

French Ships — My 1601/5. Two more French merchant ships identified approaching Cape Spartel now eastbound. (F.O.C.N.A., 0813/6)
1 French M.V., 1 Elan 330-145 NEG 10, 8 knots (Aircraft 0715/6)

/FLEURET.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

FLEURET. French Destroyer

French Destroyer FLEURET approaching Straits westbound. (F.O.C.N.A., 0743/6) One destroyer160 Europa Point 12, course 270° speed 20 knots. (A/C via Gibraltar W/T, 0735/6) One destroyer bearing 168° distance 2 miles course 260°, position 208 (?Europa Point) 1. (A/C via Gib W/T, 0800. Destroyer French Enemy speed is 30 knots (A/C 0815/6)
My 0743 (destroyer FLEURET approaching Straits) FLEURET passed east to west 0750 1160 French sloop M/S DELAGE passed west to east escorting 2 French merchant ships 1110 Spanish M/L JUPITER class passed east to west. (F.O.C.N.A. 1551/6)

North Atlantic

WRESTLER — To escort oiler ORANGELEAF to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 1036/6)

WISHART — Escorting NEURALIA, leaves position off Lisbon 1700 today (F.O.C.N.A. 1036/6)

Destroyer Shortage — Until return of 8 D.F., unable to maintain continuous extended patrol to eastwards of Gibraltar necessary to give Force H warning of enemy or French surface vessels. Maximum reconnaissance effort of available aircraft does not guarantee adequate warning over 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A., 1210/6

A/C Patrols — Details. (F.O.C.N.A. 1744/6, 1850/6, 2115/6) Search for KINGSTON SAPPHIRE, etc., (200 Group., 1720/6)

Convoy, Lack of Protection — N.C.S.O., Lisbon reports about 24 ships sailing independently west 48 hours from Portugal to join H.G. 45 at Gibraltar. German agents spreading many threats. Requests all possible protection. Unable to provide any protection on this occasion or so long as part of 13th D.F. required for Force H. (F.O.C.N.A., 2310/6)

RENOWN — Has been at sea or at short notice in harbour for 48 out of 55 days. Defects to be made good and boilers cleaned. Propose at 12 hours notice for 48 hours from 0001/8 and at 6 hours for further 48 hours. (S.O.Force H., 1330/6) Approved as soon as AUSTRALIA arrives at Gibraltar (1st S.L. to Force H., 1704/7)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

DALHELLA — (Reported overdue, my 1705/5) Arrived Capetown (S.O.I. Capetown, 1005/B/6)

W/T Signals — Reply to C. in C., S.A., 1059N/4 regarding British Airways aircraft proceeding to and from West Africa. (Air Ministry Signals 2 Bristol 1207/6)

NEPTUNE — My 1217/4. Food quantities in British ship BELGRAVIA, now at Freetown, originally intended for Dakar. (C. in C., S.A., to Govr. Nigeria, 1231N/6)

BRECONSHIRE — My 2247/5. Fuel and water requirements on arrival Lobito. (C. in C., S.A., 1107E/6) Left 1600/6 for Capetown (S.O.I. Freetown, 1809/6)

A.P. 3. — Convoy A.P. 3. from Capetown and CANTON from Simonstown as escort sailed to R.V. at 1800 and thence in accordance with my 1420Z/2. (Capt 1/c Simonstown, 1915/6)

Mediterranean

French Ships for Beirut — My 0812/4. French High Commissioner informs me that owing to late reply regarding safe conduct for 6 ships, their departures from Marseilles have been postponed for 5 days in each case. First 3 leave 8/10, second 3 on 11/10 (Consul General, Beirut, 0955/6 to C. in C., Med.) (C. in C., Med., 2126/6)

Ex-China Gunboats — Admty. 1901/4, re CRICKET and TERN. These two gunboats might indeed be very useful. (C. in C., Med., 1111/6)

PARTHIAN — Orders for patrol (Capt. S. 1. 1455/6)

GONDAR, BERILLO S/M's sunk — R.A. Alexandria's 1636/30. Confirmed STUART's U-Boat was Italian S/M GONDAR. My 1259/2 HAVOCK with HASTY in company sighted a U-Boat on surface in position 32.22 N., 26.09 E., at 0425C/2 and engaged with gunfire. U/B dived and was hunted by HAVOCK and HASTY until 0615 when surfaced and crew surrendered. U/B scuttled herself C.O., 6 Officers and 40 Ratings picked up Name of S/M BERILLO (C. in C., Med., 0955/6)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy Tank Barges

Ganz and Co., Budapest, asked by Rome 1/10 to prepare plans with descriptions in Italian of flat-bottomed tank barges of 1,000 tons lates type. (D.S. 398)

East Indies

B.N. 6. Attacked

LEANDER, escorting B.N. 6. reports she was bombed at 0435/6 in 16.47 N., 40.55 E. No damage to her or convoy. (D.S. 398)

A.P.3.

Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1530Z/6) Dates of passing Aden and arrival Suez, and ships composing. (C. in C., E.I. 1804Z/6) Sailed (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1915/6) My 1 13Z/5. Due to engine defect ULSTER PRINCE will be delayed sailing from Capetown As this ship carried ammunition only propose to omit her from Convoy A.P. 3½ and sailing her to Durban and Aden without escort for inclusion in Red Sea convoy. She cannot reach Suez without fuelling at Aden. Intend sailing CARNARVON CASTLE with CLAN MACARTHUR from Capetown 7/10 to arrive Durban a.m. and proceed in accordance with programme. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 0830Z/6) (C. in C., E.I., 1540Z/6)

NEPTUNE

Admty. 1649/5. Intentions of NEPTUNE, leaving Simonstown, a.m. /7 for search. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1211/6)

Ex-China Gunboats

Adty. 1901/4. No objection. State of COCKCHAFER and GNAT. Intend to maintain COCKCHAFER with 4 in guns for security duty in Shatt-el-Arab. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/6)

Shipping

Arrivals and departures (N.C.S.O., Calcutta 0825Z/6)

Convoy E.D.I.

Route, etc., (N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0850Z/6) Sailed for Durban 0835Z/6. Totals of officers and men and internees. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 0909Z/6)

Local Craft.....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Local Craft — Your 1128/16/8. No capacity for building local defence craft in British East African ports. 72 ft M.L's now under construction are allotted to following ports. (list) Your 0950/4. Asdic sets can be supplied when required. Request report on possibility of A/S training being arranged at Bombay or Singapore for local personnel. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., E.I., 1319/6)

LEANDER B.M. 6. — Again Bombed at 0435/6. No damage. (D.O.R. 7/10)

Bahrein M.E.W. Centre — Your 0312/25. Not intended to set up a Contraband Control Base in Persian Gulf immediately but only an Intelligence Centre staffed by M.E.W. at Bahrein. When started it will no doubt establish contact with C. in C., E.I., and S.N.O. Persian Gulf. Head of M. 1701/6 to C. in C., E.I.)

China

River Escorts — Your 1901/4. My intention was that TERN should relieve TARANTULA at Hong Kong and that CRICKET and TARANTULA should proceed to Singapore to join SCARAB and form division of mine sweepers. I doubt practicability of TERN proceeding beyond Hong Kong owing to lack of seaworthiness. In present conditions CRICKET and TARANTULA can be spared but should extensive hostile mining take place in Malayan Waters I should have to ask for more sweepers as local resources are exhausted and present number of sweepers would be insufficient. (C. in C., China, 0447Z/6 to Admty.) (See also Med. and E. Indies)

Japan — Admty. 1529/2. Proposals for shipping when hostilities become imminent. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/6)

America & West Indies

U.S. Destroyers — Reply to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1450/4 re names. (Hd. of M. 1320/6

ROXBURGH Ex BLOTH — U.S. destroyer, returning St. John's as excessive fuel consumption first 2 days showed destination could not be reached. (B.S. 3. 1646/6)

Australia

U.S. 6.7.8. — Request you arrange sailing dates for Convoys U.S. 6,7 and 8 and ocean escorts in collaboration with C. in C., E.I., (D.O.D. (F) to A.C.N.B., 1610/6)

1

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

JACOBUS FRITZEN. Reported at 1125/5 her position was 54° 22'N. 12° 05'E. and that 2 officers were overboard. (D.S. 398).

HERMES/ORTHIA — At Callao, Peru. Hamburg enquired of Ostern and Co. Lima, 3/10, re transhipment of cargo with Danish S.S. INDIA. (D.S. 398).

FRANKFURT — At Talcahuano, Chile. Has discharged 1,000 tons sulphur and 19 tons lumber (D.S. 398).

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH GENERAL torpedoed — British, 6909 tons, tanker, ex Convoy O.A. 222, Torpedoed 51.42 N., 24.03 W., at 1630 (G.M.T.?) (BRITISH GENERAL, 1925/6) Tugs ENGLISHMAN and SUPERMAN to proceed in company to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 3137/6). Tugs sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2240/6) Bound from Tyne to Abadan in ballast.

2nd attack 7/10. — SSSS 1200 G.M.T. BRITISH GENERAL torpedoed 0824 this morning in 51.42 N., 24.50 W. Require immediate assistance, sinking T.O.R. 1327/7. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio, received 1331/7).

MAGDALENA torpedoed 18/9. — British, 3118 tons, which was torpedoed 18/9, now presumed sunk. Feared no survivors. (D.S. 398).

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE (torpedoed 5/10) — 28 survivors landed Huelva by Spanish trawler at 0600/6. 3 missing (D.O.R. 7/10)

Submarines Reported.

1346. — Aircraft report 55.20 N., 07.14 W. at 1345. (C. in C. W.A. 1837/6) (H.Q., 15 Group, 1840/6).

1720. — Periscope sighted by HIGHLAND BRIGADE, 49. 39 N. 23.38 W. (Port Patrick Radio 1720/6).

1830. — 57. 47 N., 01.54 W. contact by ALYBANK (See Submarines attacked)

America and West Indies.

N.A. Washington's 1213/5. VAN KINSBERGEN approx 200 miles north from our position at time of report states visibility poor. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1302/6).

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine Reported.

Italian. 1 25 miles west of Cape Trafalgar A.M/5. Probably 1 eastward of Azores.

German. 1 in 49° 30' N. 11° 30' W. at 2023/5 may arrive Lorient night 7/8th.
Possibly 1 about 55°N. 11°- 14°W.
1 between 51°N. and 52°N. westward of 20° W.
1 between 52° 30' N. and 53° 30' N. westward of 21°W.
2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown but possibly near Rockall and about 55°N. or 56°N. westward of 16°W.
(D.D.I.C. 1330/6).

Submarines Attacked.

Italian U/B sunk. TIGRIS reports - attacked three Italian U-Boats SANTORRE SANTA-ROSA class escorted by 2 patrol vessels believed to be French sloop minesweeper KLAN class entering Matolier (corrupt group) 0700 sank one Italian U-Boat. (V.A.S. 2346/6).

GONDAR)
BERILLO) Italian S/M's sunk. (See Mediterranean).

1000 500-ton U-boat arrived Kors Fiord 1000/6, course 090°, dived during attack. Left patrol 2000/6, shortage of fuel. (Netherlands Submarine O.21, 2030/6).

1728 Submarine contact in 57.47 N., 01.54 W. (ALYNBANK, 1600/6). Attacked Submarine in 57.34 N. 01.29 W. (ALYNBANK, 1728/6).
Your 1728, report whether Submarine was actually sighted (C. in C. Rosyth, 1944.
No. Asdic firm contact. (ALYNBANK, 1945/6).
Your 1728. Is this considered same submarine as your 1600, observing positions are 18 miles apart, impossible for submarine to have travelled in the time. (C.in C. Rosyth 2119/6). Your 2118. Not considered that submarine attacked was same as that reported in my 1600. (ALYNBANK, 2230/6)

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

KENYA left Scapa this evening to R.V. with and escort Convoy W.S. 3. fast as far as Freetown, where KENYA is to work up.

Convoys

In view of the shortage of escorts the East Coast and north about convoys are to be run on a 3 day cycle temporarily, vis a 9 knot ship convoy, a 7 knot ship convoy, and a blank day.

British Air Operations

On account of the weather, no operations by Bomber Command or Coastal Command were carried out last night.

Today R.A.F. attacked shipping at Le Havre and a 3000 ton merchant vessel 10 miles N.W. of Lister Light.

Enemy Air Activity

Increase in attacks on N.E. Coast of Scotland

An increased number of ships have been damaged lately by air attack off the north-east coast of Scotland. Air Ministry have asked Fighter Command to take any further measures that may be practicable to give security to convoys.

Ships Attacked

N.O.i/c Swansea reports today that SS LATIMER was bombed and set on fire at 1345/2 off the Blaskets. The vessel is not sunk and may be a danger to navigation. The Trawler LEEDS was attacked at 1425/3 inside the Blaskets, but was undamaged.

Trawler FRAMLINGHAM was slightly damaged by attack 18 miles south of the Fastnet at 1040/3.

Ports & Bases Attacked

A good many attempted attacks on the London dock area were made today; a fire was caused this afternoon at Surrey Commercial Docks, but no very serious damage was caused.

Bombs were dropped in Dover harbour and Town this morning and 3 barrage balloons were shot down in raids of which there were several today.

/VERNON.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

VERNON Instructional Dept. at Portsmouth was damaged by fire caused by an incendiary bomb about 2300/7.

Mining

Minelaying aircraft were active today off the N.E. Coast of England, Firth of Forth, Thames Estuary and Liverpool Bay.

A fresh moored minefield has been located to the eastward of the South Foreland. Three mines were swept today and 3 sweep wires parted by explosive cutter.

HAMBLEDON was mined about 5 miles east of Dover this evening. VESPER took her in tow for Sheerness.

A mine exploded 50 yards astern of H.S.L. 111 when proceeding at 38 knots in the Humber. The boat was damaged and rendered unserviceable.

Another mine was cut off the Manacles today.

The approaches to Rosyth were closed today at 2309 between 2° 52' W., and Oxcars Gate. owing to suspected minelaying. The port of Methil is open.

Operations Against Vichy French

C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE and transports WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND with de Gaulle's force escorted by COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE arrived at Ambas Bay, Duala a.m. today. Disembarkation of troops into small ships commenced p.m./7. and is expected to be completed p.m./8.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

It is reported that French merchant vessels are evading the blockade by creeping up the coast past Cape Spartel and then eastward in territorial waters until opposite Italy when they cross over and proceed inside Italian waters. F.O.C.N.A. reports th that these ships are all escorted through the Straits and consequently are allowed to proceed. Interference will, in his opinion, inevitably create an incident, and he suggests that some sort of Contraband Agreement be arranged with the French Govt.

AUSTRALIA left her patrol off the Azores at midnight 7/8 for Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE left Freetown this morning for Takoradi, to remove 155 evacuees from SS TOUAREG and put them over the frontier of French Ivory Coast; thence to patrol as far east as 1° 10' N., 4° 30' E., to intercept Vichy French shipping possibly proceeding to Gabon.

Mediterranean

Blenheims attacked M.T. in camp near Sidi Barrani today.

Swordfish of F.A.A., Sunderlands and Glen Martins today repeated their search for enemy surface forces in the Ionian Sea.

East Indies

Troop Convoy B.N. 6. was bombed again for the third time at 0612/7 in the Central Red Sea. No damage has been reported.

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — At 0200/7 (D.C. 0219/7) At 1400/7. (D.C. 1403/7)

Burning Oil as Invasion Defence — Trial of New Method taking place in Greenock Area on 9/10. Request you send representative to witness and report. (D. of L.D. 1836/7 to Home Forces)

A.M. 1952/1. Folkestone visited by expert from Haslar Experimental Station who considers it impracticable to install this defence as previously proposed. A further visit will be paid to discuss another scheme (D. of L.D., 1849/7 to V.A.Dover)

Policy

1st TOWNS Flotilla — Your 0134/6. (Working up in Western Approaches) Concur. (D.S.D. 2003/7 to C. in C., W.A)

Atlantic Proposed new Anti-U-Boat S/M Patrol — It appears that U-Boats are working further and further to Westward where attack by Surface Craft is difficult because of endurance. Suggest a submarine patrol be established between 20° and 25° West from 52 to 54° North or from 55° and 57° North. (C. in C., W.A., 2021/7 to V.A.S.)

Movements

WILDGEON PUFFIN — For patrol Q 25117 tonight. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1045/7)

ALYNBANK — Leave convoy H.X. 75 A 2359/7 if no attack is developing and return to Scapa. (F.O.C. Destroyer Flotillas H.F. 1054/7)

WOLVERINE SARDONYX — Admty. 1708/6 and my 1307/6, 1657/6. Intend to sail them from needles 1830/7 for Plymout Route. E.T.A. 0700/8 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1217/7) Sailed (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1845/7)

KENYA — Requesting A/S air escort from 0600/8 for as long as possible. Position etc., (C. in C., W.A., 1307/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

/2nd Towns.....

War Diary

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

2nd Towns Flotilla — Route to Plymouth (C. in C., W.A., 1327/7 to HAMILTON) Less HAMILTON, GEORGETOWN, ROXBURGH. E.T.A. Belfast 1800 G.M.T/8 (HOPEWELL 1641/7)

Northern Patrol — Trawler line occupied today (F.O.C.O.S. 1536/7)

VANBITTART — Proceed at 1500/8 to Lough Foyle, to arrive daylight 9/10, complete with oil and await orders. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1539/7)

CYCLAMEN — Asking if she may wait 24 hours for pom pom (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1543/7)

Dover — Patrols night 7/8 (V.A.Dover 1546/7)

ARK ROYAL ARGUS — In company. Only HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HURRICANE escorting at present. Noon position. Speed adjusted for ARGUS to arrive Clyde 0645/8. Asking earliest time ship can be accepted at Liverpool. (C. in C., Rosyth 1054/7)

CAIRO — To sail when ready to Clyde for dispersing. (C. in C., W.A. 1947/7)

Operations

Operation LUCID — Prepare to carry out today. Zero hour 0240/8. (C. in C., Nore, 0740/7 to D. 16, D. 21, etc.) (Air Ministry 1005/7 to Air Commands)

Carry out LUCID. (D.O.D. H. 1015/7 to C. in C., Nore) (C. in C., Nore 1022/7 to D.16 D. 21, etc.)

Act as in 2240/2. Time of passing North Goodwin L.V. to be adjusted as necessary. Code word ALPHA. (C. in C., Nore, 1050/7 to D. 16.)

Following are times of passing Garrison Point today. (C. in C., Nore, 1052/7 to D. 21 etc.)

Forces indicated will pass Nore L.V. as follows, proceeding by Edinburgh Channel and through Downs. (C. in C., Nore, 1120/7 to H.C.F.C.)

/my 1007/4.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation LUCID (Contd.)

My 1007/4. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. (D.D.I.C. 1231/7 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth, and V.A.Dover)

Following is composition of Forces (C. in C. Nore, 1540/7 to Admty.)

Request Fighter Protection for Forces A and B from daylight 8th until arrival at Sheerness. Anticipated positions of Forces at 0630/8. Positions liable to considerable amendment and H.Q.F.C. will be kept informed. Code Word for both Forces ALPHA. (C. in C., Nore, 1700/7 to H.Q.F.C.)

Route for Force A and return in view of Mines cut near No 1 Buoy. (C. in C., Nore 2112/7 to D. 21)

Operation LUCID postponed. (V.A.Dover 2227/7 to Force B and Adty.) Return to Harwich at Daylight (C. in C., Nore, 2300/7 to D. 21)

Continue LUCID if you consider it practicable and weather is suitable. (1st S.L. 2320/7 to D. 21, EGLINGTON, HAMBLEDON D. 16 etc.,

LADY BRASSEY and MURIA sailed to assistance of HAMBLEDON at 2326 (V.A.Dover 2350/7 to Adty.)

EGLINTON is to join Force B in place of GARTH and is to escort MYTILUS and OAKFIELD to R.V. (C. in C., Nore, 0926/7)

OAKFIELD to anchor at Great Nore, (C. in C., Nore, 0848/8)

EREBUS

Your 1920/6. Propose EREBUS bombard Calais or the Gris Nez Batteries on first convenient night after completion or postponement of LUCID. Battaries preferred but it is considered that neither bombardment should be carried out without efficient ait spotting. (C. in C., Nore, 1002/7 to Adty.)

Operation HERKUM

V.A.S. 2228/5. URSULA detailed and arrived Portsmouth 1000/7. C.O. of URSULA being sent overland to Devonport p.m. today. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1023/7 to Adty.) Your 1921/5. (i) Latest information will be signalled separately. (iii) Air Ministry are arranging request visit. (iv) Confirmed But this should not prejudice the engagement of most suitable Targets, (V.C.N.S. 1308/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

M/PD 69087/40 of 4/10 para 5, and your 2307/6. Request you arrange as many M.T.Bs as possible to operate in conjunction with motor gunboats from Fowey, the Flotilla to assemble at Portland by 1200/9. In addition request you provide cruisers and destroyers for an eastern covering force. Request names. Operation orders are being sent. (C. in C., W.A., 1527/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Your 1023/7. After consulting with C.O. have decided not to include URSULA in Operation. Request Area W. 2. may be kept clear of submarines during Operation. (C. in C., W.A. 2333/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

As it is now understood that M.T.B's have unsuitable armament for engaging E-Boats request you cancel my 1527/7 (C. in C., W.A. 1207/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Patrol U — 2 Destroyers from Humber to arry out tonight (C. in C., Nore, 1215/7 to INTREPID)

Western Channel Patrol — Patrol BY (C. in C., W.A., 1629/7 to N.O.I.C Dartmouth)

Iceland — My 1931/4. It is desired to send some troops to Iceland in ARGUS. Request you report maximum number of Officers and other Ranks that could be accommodated. (A.C.N.S. H. 2028/7 to ARGUS)

Proposed withdrawal of Walrus A/S Squadron
See British Air Activity.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines.

O. 21. Left Patrol 2000/6 and is following Route in my 1121/6. (Capt S. 9. 0259/7) Your 2030/6. Your should take Route given in my 1121/6. (Capt. S. 9. 0303/7 to O.21) Reports 500 ton U-Boat entered Kors Fiord 1000/6. (V.A.S. 1001/7 to C. in C., H.F.)

H. 49 Reports A/S trawlers sweeping STURGEONS Swept Channel daily to following regular time table.
5. H. 49 also reports single aireraft carried out A/S patrol on 3rd 4th and 5th September. On 30th/9 8 minesweepers swept searched Channel. At 2112/1 fired 4 torpedoes at convoy of 6 Merchant ships northbound in 53° 10' N., 04° 32' E., range of firing approx. 4800 yards on 15 degree track. One loud explosion seven minutes after last torpedo was fired. Result not observed. (V.A.S. 1251/7)

H. 34 Will be exercising in the Flow a.m. and p.m. 8th. (A.C.O.S. 1521/7)

H. 43 Exercising in Plymouth S/M Area. (C. in C,n W.A. 1615/7 to Adty.)

PORPOISE Capt. S. 2's 1447/5. Owing to low speed of advance estimate arrive Bishops Rock 0730/8 (PORPOISE 1617/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Positions For following 24 hours at 0700/8. (V.A.S. 1719/7 and 2339/7)

O. 22. Proceed into Patrol Zone on arrival. (Capt S. 9. 1017/7 to O.22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Summary of operations 5/10. (H.Q.B.C., THI 0505/7) Intelligence Summary No 468, includes Summary of Operations night 6/6. (H.Q.B.C., THI 1245/7)

Air Searches

For 8/10. (C. in C., Rosyth 1854/7)

Coastal Command

Operations for night 7/8, (H.Q.C.C. 1448/7)

Iceland

Withdrawal of Walrus Squadron will deprive me of all air R.C. at time when such R.C. is becoming increasingly necessary. If withdrawal essential urgently request replacement by some alternative type which can reconnoitre deeply including Jan Mayen I and Greenland. (Alabaster Reykjavik 2329/6)

North East Coast Air Protection of Convoys

A. 120. Increased number of ships damaged by air attack off north east coast of Scotland. Great importance attached to adequate air protection for these convoys. Appreciated that when main battle is in south and south east full protection for east coast convoys cannot be given but request that any further practicable measures to give convoys security from air attack be taken. (Air Min 2325/7 1100/8 to F.C.)

Convoy "Booty"

Convoy "Booty" (F.S. Odd) Shadowed by one aircraft. My position 51° 31' N., 1° 3'E (VEGA 1502/7)

SUSSEX (Damaged 18/9)

Condition (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1830/7)

Orkneys

One hostile aircraft engaged between 1630-1700 (A.C.O.S. 2103/7)

Enemy Air Activity

SS LATIMER Bombed 2/10

Trawler LEEDS reports SS LATIMER on fire at 1345/2 as result of bombing attack 10 miles off Blaskets. Crewm saved by KILGERVAN CASTLE landed Valencia six killed including engineer. Vessel not sunk may be danger to navigation. Trawler LEEDS attacked by Heinkel Bomber inside Blaskets at 1425/3. No damage. (N.O.i/c Swansea 1240/7)

/HEINKEL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Heinkel in Sea has Special W/T

Heinschel aircraft is believed down in sea between Folkestone and Dungeness at 1220/7 making W/T signals.
It is thought this aircraft is fitted with special W/T apparatus specimen of which is urgently required. (D.C. 1248/7 to V.A. Dover)

Dover Attacked

Enemy aircraft dropped two bombs in Dover harbour and one in the town at 0935 and one bomb to Northward of Grand Shaft Barracks at 1013/7.
Six civilians wounded. At 1013 six M.E's shot down two barrage balloons and at 1350 four M.E's shot down one barrage balloon. (V.A.Dover, 1909/7)

London Dock Area

1030 2 H.E. dropped: one in Bow Creek, one to northward which struck factory and started fire. 1700, 9 H.E. dropped Surrey Commercial Docks and vicinity. Some non naval casualties. No serious damage. Incendiary started fire at Bellamys Wharf on South Shore near Surrey Docks fire now presumed to be extinguished. (F.O.i/c London. 1935/7)

Mining

H.S.L. 111 Damaged

Mine exploded by H.S.L. 111 in Humber 115° 5 cables from No 6 buoy. Narrow column of water 50 yards astern of boat, speed of boat 38 knots, boat damaged and unserviceable. (F.O. Humber, 1309/7)

Manacles

Mine cut and sunk by rifle fire 50° 0' 12"N 5° 3' 0" W., (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1525/7)

Experimental

Experimental day and night sweeping to be carried out by 3 ships of 5th M/S F ahead of E.N. Convoy bearing Methil 0500/9 while between May Island and Duncansby Head. Details. (C. in C., Rosyth 1823/7)

Danlayers

30th M.S.F. to sail to Rosyth as convenient to operate under C. in C., Rosyth. (D.M.S. 1831/7)

Rosyth

Approaches are closed between 02° 52' W., and Oxcars Gate due to suspected minelaying. Port of Methil is open (C. in C., Rosyth, 2309/7)

/Falmouth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Falmouth — Owing to suspected minelaying destroyers are not to enter harbour until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2327/7)

Regret your escort is delayed owing to heavy commitments and damage sustained by Destroyers. 4 Destroyers will be sent at first opportunity (C. in C., W.A., 1931/7 to RAML)

HAMBLEDON (Mined near Dover) 7/10 — LADY BRASSEY and MURIA sailed to assistance of HAMBLEDON at 2326 (V.A.Dover 2350/7 to Adty.)

ADVENTURE Practice Lay — Adnty. Letter 1826/40 of 12/9 and A.L. 2068/40 of 30/9. Propose embark Mines for practice lay at port Z.A. on 17/10 and lay a proportion on 21/10, disembarking mines not actually laid on 22/10. (ADVENTURE 1211/7 to D.A.S., Bath)

Operation B. B. 10 — PLOVER does not undock till 1800/7 and will load a.m./8. Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Point 1700/8 and R.V. with minesweeper at 20 D buoy at 0615/9, proceeding thence through gap B to initial position and returning same route. Laying will begin 1400/9. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 0812/7 and 0910/8)

Two Humber destroyers are to be detailed as escort. Report names. (C. in C., Nore, 1645/7 to INTREPID)

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Shetlands	Unat reports one small fast vessel bearing 328° 15 miles steering 098° at 24 knots at 0607. (Scapa W/T 0617/7 to SNAPPER) Bearing 335° 11 miles, steering 162° at 12 knots at 0635 (Scapa Base Ship W/T 0647/7 to SNAPPER)
Smoke Screen off Boulogne	Smoke screen reported off Boulogne Harbour at 1600/7. It has now disappeared. One aircraft 53 Sqdn. to investigate any unusual surface activity. (A.H.Q. Chatham 1640/7 to Adty.)
M/V's from Boulogne	A Southerly movement of Enemy M/V's from Boulogne may be expected through your Area tonight. (Capt. S. 5. 1850/7 to UPRIGHT)
Helder, Dordrecht, Enkhuisen	M/V's and Barges seen on 6/10 (H.Q.B.C. 0505/7)
Ship with Red Cross Markings off Hook	At 0928/7 in 51° 55' N., 3° 38' E., One ship with Red Cross on upper deck and on port side, heading S.E. (H.Q.B.C. 1245/7)

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

MOUNT TAYGETUS. Received 0057. Tugs not arrived. Ship drifting in position 120° Helwick L.V. 5 miles. Will you inquire what is happening as to tugs. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0803/7 to Adty.)

EASTERN COAST. In collision with French Ship VAILLANT at 0530/7 in Methil Roads, both ships at anchor. Propose carrying out local survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1114/7 to Adty.). Concur. (A.S. Rosyth 1620/7 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

HELIOPOLIS. Delayed by damage to bulwarks by a trawler when leaving harbour to-day. Estimated time of repair 6 days. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1428/7 to R.A.N.A.S.)

NIGHT HAWK)
ROYAL DAFFODIL) H.M. Trawler NIGHT HAWK collided with ROYAL DAFFODIL while latter ship at anchor. Slight damge to both ships above water. (N.O.I.C. Larne 2140/7 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

7.10.40.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys.

Shipping

O.A. 225

Position. (A.C.O.S. 0709/7) Escort SHIKARI, CLARKIA, PERIWINKLE (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1150/7).

O.A. 226.

Route. N.C.S.O. Methil 0851/7)

H.X. 75.

Position. (A.C.O.S. 0758/7).

S.C.6.

38 Ships. Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to HASTINGS, etc. 1240/7).

H.X. 75 A.

ALTNBANK to leave at 2359/7 if no attack developing. (F.O.(D) H.F. 1064/7).

O.L.7.

DUNEDIN STAR to join. (C.in C. W.A. 1515/7) Route. (D.T.D.1651/7).

F.N. and F.S.

Cancelling his 1107/6 and 2301/6, re escorts for (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1636/7)

W.N. 21 S.

Escort BERKSHIRE, WOLVES (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/7).

O.A. 228.

Route. (D.T.D. 1219/7).

W.S.3.

Escort DOUGLAS, ST. LAURENT sailed 1510/7 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1552/7) Clyde section escort ACTIVE, OTTAWA sailed (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1715/7).

0944.

Route. (D.T.D. 1440/7).

F.S.4.

Will leave Methil 0030/8. Close escort BLACK SWAN, WOOLSTON (C.in C. Rosyth 1139/7).

C.W.14.

Intend to sail from Southend 1245/9. Escort FERNIE, BERKELEY, KINGSTON OLIVINE, GREENFLY, TOURMALINE, ACACIA, DEODAR, ASH, CHESTNUT, WALNUT etc. (C.in C. Nore 2156/7)

C.A. Convoys, Abolition.

Your 1131/5. Yes. Reference should have been to E.N. and W.N. convoys in my 1553/4. (C.in C. W.A. to C.in C. Rosyth, 2040/7).

/DINAS .....

MOST SECRET

7.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys — Shipping (Continued)

DIMAS — Finnish, intercepted, sent Reykjavik (P.O.C.M.P. 1457/7).

W.N., E.N., F.N., F.S. Cycle. — My 1900/4. In view of shortage of escorts, now proposed W.N., E.N., F.N., and F.S. convoys should run on 3-day cycle as follows - 9-knot ship convoy, 7-knot ship convoy, and a blank day. This programme temporary pending availability of additional escort vessels. (D.T.D.1859/7)

Minesweeping. — Admty. 2135/30. 3 ships of 5th M.S.F. will carry out experimental day and night sweeping ahead of E.N. Convoy leaving Methil 0600/9, between May Island and Duncansby Head. Instructions. (C.in C. Rosyth 1823/7)

Zigzagging. — Comments on Admty. 1933/6. (C.in C. W.A. 2029/7, 2031/7).

EASTERN PRINCE — My 1830/6. Speed 15 knots. (WHITEHALL, 0825/7). Request fighter cover to North Channel. Position. Proceeding to Liverpool. (C.in C. W.A. 0409/7).

Troop Convoys

M.A.J. — Final composition (D.of S.T. 2046/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville. CORNWALL reports air reconnaissance 6/10 one sloop one M.V. in harbour. Not possible to verify presence of submarines owing haze and distance. Aircraft not seen. No outlying patrol vessel. (C.S.I. 0846 A/7).

Arrival at Duala. Arrived Ambas Bay. Landing of troops delayed until arrival of De Gaulle expected 1600/7. Retaining CORNWALL vide your 1311/5. (F.O.I.C. to C.in C. S.A. 1204/7).
My 1204. Have seen De Gaulle. Disembarkation into small ships commenced, expected complete p.m./8, all troops arriving Duala by a.m./9. Your 1311. Escort now requested for 400 French marines in WESTERNLAND to Point Noire. Propose sending CORNWALL and 2 destroyers p.m./8 and remaining at Manoka in DEVONSHIRE until arrival M.T. transport (C.S.I. 1415 A/7)
My 0845/6 confirmed. No further action contemplated against Libreville except by free French planes. (C.S.I to Admty., 1421/7).
My 1131/5. Transports arrived Ambas Bay. Intend WESTERNLAND shall be escorted to Point Noire Bay as proposed. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1815/7).

Destroyers to Return. Your 1415/7 and C.in C. S.A. 1815/7. Destroyers are to return to Gibraltar as soon as possible. Risk of submarine attack on passage of WESTERNLAND to Point Noire must be accepted. (1 S.L. to C.S.I, 2309/7).

M.T. Convoy. Convoy M.T. position. Expect arrive Outer Bar buoy Cameroon River 1000/10. At ?0430/4, TURCOMAN detached to proceed independently direct to Lagos. Fuel remaining in DELHI and DRAGON. (DELHI, 2217/7).

Food Supplies. Your 1231/6. Supplies would be of greatest assistance and any not required Duala could probably be absorbed by other parts of B.E.F. where there is shortage. (Govr., Nigeria, to C.in C. S.A. 1931/7).

French Movements. Gibraltar 1909/7. French trawler SERGENT GOUARNE escorting LOUIS CHARLES SCHIAFFINO west to east. (S.O.I. Gib. 2315/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping

Request comments on telegram 462 of 5/10 from Gascoigne, Tangier. What steps are being taken to bring in these ships? (1 S.L. to F.O.C. N.A. 0030/7).

Your 0030/7. Ships are all escorted through Straits and are allowed to proceed in accordance with A.M. 2030/11/8. Escorting ships frequently return to westward after taking convoy some distance into Mediterranean. Full use is made of Spanish territorial waters. Probable ships leave territorial waters at some point to eastward, but nothing to prevent them continuing to Oran or Algiers within 3 miles of coast and they will probably do this if watched. Best solution some sort of contraband agreement with French Govt. as arranged with ordinary neutrals. (F.O.C.N.A. 1214/7).

Suspicious Ship.

My 1830/28. Some informant reports ship is exactly as stated except flag may not have been changed to British but ship may have been chartered by British. One Italian submarine passed Straits Eastbound 28/9. 2 Italian submarines passaged west-bound 30/9. (N.A. Madrid 1301/7).

Spain and U/Boats.

My 1301/7th, same informant. Between 8/10 and 15/10, a cargo of fuel for German submarines will be loading approximate Laredo at night. Supplier is Prieto Lavin of Hargrave. Submarines to be supplied are those operating between Lamming Combe, Brest. German brigade (corrupt group) is liaison between Laredo and German Naval Authorities in France, (corrupt group) Pataeatres registered at Bilbao is also used. Cannot assess. (N.A. Madrid, 1323/7).

Air Search.

Following from ARK ROYAL. Admty. 1836/2. Aircraft searched carried out p.m./4 and a.m./5. Nothing of importance sighted. 1157/7. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1714/7). More detailed report (ARK ROYAL, 1925/7).

/Belgian Ship .....

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic (Continued)

Belgian Ship. Lisbon.

Your 1827/2, Ministry of Shipping and Belgian Economic Mission do not agree to general arrangement that all Belgian ships at Lisbon be delayed but would consider particular cases if need of evacuation seemed imminent. Belgians agree to repairs to REINE PAUL being effected Lisbon. PORTUGAL will be delayed pending new crew but most important that THYSVILLE and VAN VICTIS should be free to sail.
(D. of S.T. 1941/7, to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Possible Raider.

At 1330 G.M.T./30 in 005° 00'S 017° 18'W. WINDSOR CASTLE sighted neutral merchant ship (description). Course 330° 12 knots. No vessel of this description known to be in this vicinity and ship may be raider homeward bound for German or German occupied port.
(D.D.I.C. 1652/7).

Force H Destroyers

F.O.C.N.A. 1740/1 and C.in C. H.F. 1005/2. Exchange of KEPPEL for HOTSPUR will reduce number of modern destroyers of 13 D.F. capable of operating with Force H from 5 to 4. Most desirable that a leader should be available to accommodate Capt. (D) and staff when 13 D.F. are taking part in operations with Force H. (S.O. Force H, 2105/7 to Admty).

RENOWN

Your 2339/6, boiler cleaning, etc. Approved as soon as AUSTRALIA arrives at Gibraltar. (1 S.L. to S.O. Force H, 1704/7).
Rivets securing plating to armour torn away. Risk of bulge stripping in bad weather or high speed. Intend RENOWN remain at short notice until arrival of AUSTRALIA when temporary repairs will be effected by wood chocks. (S.O. Force H. 2141/7).

BARHAM.

Re exchange of ammunition. (D.T.S.D., 2047/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.1940.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SELANDIA — Danish. Re conversion to hospital ship. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1305/7).

Suspicious Ship. — Oiler with grey funnel and upperwork resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted 37° 06'S., 27° E., course 200°, speed 10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C. 0146/8 to C.in C. S.A. etc.)

Mediterranean.

Destroyers. — Admty. 1923/5. Concur another Capt.(D) not required. (C.in C. Med., 1083/7).

Turkey. Personnel. — Your 8351/10/9. No objection to disclosing information to Turks or to their sending an officer to Alexandria for training. (S.D.O. to C.in C., Med. 1051/7).

NARVAL — French submarine. Has returned from first patrol under Free French flag. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1105/7).

Crete. — Defence of. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1742/7). See Mediterranean Vol.

Danube, Mining — Reply to C.in C. Med 2325/26/9. (Hd. of M. 1744/7) See Mediterranean Vol.

Operation M.E.3. — Begins p.m./8. Outline of intentions. (C.in C. Med., 1807/7).

Operation M.E. — Submarines to move clear of Fleet area, or if not possible to remain deep. (Capt. S.1, 1101/7).

Enemy Reports, Delay. — C. in C. Med. 1259/2. Enemy Fleet was observed by Glen Martin recco. at 0620 and by Sunderlands 1060. Appears reports although broadcast were not received by C.in C. Med. Reasons under investigation. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1126/7).

Evacuations. — Asking if ships of A.P.3 and W.3.3. can be used to evacuate families to South Africa. (Movements, M.E., to W.O. 1230/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

ULSTER PRINCE — My 1804/6. ULSTER PRINCE will proceed independently and unescorted to Aden for onward passage to Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0418 Z/7, 0420 Z/7).
Will leave Capetown 0500/9 for Aden and not call at Durban.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1133 Z/7).

Local Defence. E. Africa. — Admty. 1319/6. Request number allocated and approx. date of delivery.
(C.in C. E.I. 0610 Z/7).

M. de Socoure. — In VICEROY OF INDIA, due Bombay 9/10. De Gaulle wishes to disembarkand return Far East. (A.C.N.S.(F) to F.O.C. R.I.N., 1957/7).

W.S.S. — Admty. (1957/2 and your 0306/4. Very undesirable that Fast Group should be held back after leaving Cape by having to wait for W.S.S Slow. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C.E.I., 2300/7).

A.F.3. W.W.2. — A.F.3., escorted CARTHAGE, and S.W.2, escorted SHROPSHIRE, to R.V. (position and date) where escort will be exchanged. Routes. (C.in C. E.I., 1050 Z/7).

My 1230/5. Add one destroyer (lent from Mediterranean) to A.F.3½. (C.in C. E.I. 1132 Z/7).

Colombo. — Re equipments and ammunition. (D.of L.D. to W.O., 1016/7).

Red Sea Force. — My 1124/2, para. 2. Delete CALEDON and YARRA. (C.in C. E.I. 1216 Z/7).

China.

Defence of Straits Settlements. — Your 0513/27. Chiefs of Staff consider difficulties not insuperable. Guns being made available from Colombo. Australia asked to provide personnel.(D.of L.D.to C.in C. China, 1414/7).

Burma Road. — Re-opening to be announced to-morrow. Possible this may cause situation re Japan to deteriorate. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. China. 2303/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

PRINCE ROBERT. To comply with C. in C. A.W.I's 1302/6. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0955/7).

HAKOZAKI MARU. Arrived Bermuda 7/10. Being held. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1602/7).

Convoys, routeing. My 1141/5. Ships in convoy bound for Port Talbot and ports to the westward are to proceed to Milford Haven for onward routeing and not to Barry Roads (D.T.D. 1139/7 to C.O.A.C. Halifax O.C.).

1. Ships are not be routed via Belle Isle Straits after 31/10 sailings from U.K. West Const.
2. Adty. 1939/8/12/39 remains in force. Masters should be given discretion to depart from ocean route ordered to avoid weather delay or damage (D.T.D.1253/7).

Zigzagging. Your 1636/3. Instructions for convoy procedure will be issued shortly based on character of recent attacks, (D.T.D.1802/7)

Australia.

MAURETANIA Arrived Fremantle 6/10. (A.C.N.B. 0632 Z/7)

AQUITANIA Arrived Sydney 0147 Z/6. (A.C.N.B. 0255 Z/7)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORDELIA. Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz, 1016/7).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TUSCANIA Oiler resembling her sighted 37.06 S., 87° E., course 300°, speed 10 knots, at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C. 0146/8).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1206. D.F. unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 55° to 55° 30'N., 22° to 25° W., unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1301/7).

1000/6. Netherlands submarine O.21 reports 500-ton U/B entered Koos Fiord 1000/6. Dived before completion of O.21's attack. (V.A.S. 1001/7) Capt. S. 9. 1017/7).

1600. 49.42'N., 04.50' W. Send available destroyers to attack (C.in C. W.A. 1617/7) Report was from aircraft, not certain that it was a submarine (C.in C. W.A.1633/7).

1910. Periscope reported 5 miles S.E. Mousa Island, Shetlands, steering N.N.E. (A.C.O.S. 2231/7).

2213. 59.06 N., 1.02 W., periscope reported (D.S. 399).

North Atlantic.

28/9, 30/9. One Italian submarine passed Straits eastbound 28/9. 2 Italian submarines passed westbound 30/9. Unable to assess reliability. (N.A. Madrid, 1301/7).

Estimated U/B dispositions

Italian. 2 arrived Gironde A.M. 5th. No further news of those at sea.

German. 1 probably arrives Lorient to-night.
1 in 51° 42' N. 24° 03' W. at 1930/6, and
1 about 100 miles to southward
1 in about 55° 30' N. 22° - 25° W. at 1200/7
1 more in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown.
1 may be patrolling south of 56° N. within 100 miles of Bloody Foreland.
(D.D.I.C. 1240/7).

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday..

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Seven two-gun salvoes were fired from Cape Gris Nez battery at EGLINGTON and vessels in company this morning near South Goodwin Lt. V. The final salvo straddled the Light vessel. No damage or casualties caused.

There were strong indications of enemy activity a few miles east of the Lizard, probably E.boats, later this evening. KASHMIR and JAGUAR investigated.

The 2nd Town Flotilla arrived at Belfast this evening, less the three destroyers damaged or defective.

British Air Activity.

Ports from Zeebrugge to Lorient were successfully attacked last night, the heaviest concentrations being at Calais and Boulogne. The gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez were also attacked. One Whitley bombed the Naval Docks at Wilhelmshaven.

R.A.F. this afternoon attacked 2 Flakships off the coast of Denmark; one ship is thought to have been damaged.
A Hudson on routine patrol bombed unsuccessfully an enemy vessel 21 miles North of Maas Light. After the attack, the enemy vessel showed two red crosses forward of the funnel.

Enemy Air Activity.

BELLONA II proceeding independently from Hull to Reykjavik was bombed and set on fire this evening and went aground near Stonehaven. 11 of her crew of 28 were killed.
S.S. ORONSAY carrying troops, in Convoy W.S.3 was attacked and damaged this morning in the N.W. Approaches.
H.M.T. BURKE was severely damaged during a second raid on Dover this morning.
At 1943/8 an unknown ship signalled that she was being bombed about 140 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

/Considerable damage ..

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

Considerable damage was done to the quay-side at West India Docks by a delay action bomb dropped at 0630/8 which exploded at 1015/8.
Tower Bridge is out of action for road traffic for 3 or 4 days as the result of bombing this morning. The bridge is open.
Lee-on-Solent R.A.N.A.S. aerodrome was bombed this evening, but negligible damage was caused. There is an U.X.B. on the aerodrome.
Buildings at Ford R.N.A.Station were slightly damaged by air raid at dusk to-day.

Mining.

Mines were laid off Lorient and in the Maas Estuary last night by R.A.F. This evening, 3 mines were laid in the entrance to the Ems River.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary, Firth of Forth, off Flamborough Head, Newcastle area and Merseyside.
Falmouth is closed until a swept channel has been established.
Rosyth approaches were opened about noon today.
Humber was closed at 2341 today owing to minelaying by aircraft.

S.S. ACTUOSITY (429 tons) in Convoy F.S. 97 sank in 5 minutes at 0400/3 after striking a submerged object about 15 miles E. by N. of Cromer. There was no pronounced impact and no explosion, but a strong smell of gas.
LOCUST (gunboat) was damaged and her engines put out of action by a mine which exploded immediately astern of her p.m. today in the Thames Estuary.

Operations against Vichy French.

WESTERNLAND with 400 French troops, escorted by CORNWALL sailed from Duala for Point Noire p.m. today.
PENNLAND completed disembarking her troops at Duala and sailed for Freetown p.m.today.

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A tanker resembling the Italian TUSCANIA was sighted yesterday morning in approx. 37° S. 27°W. steering 200°. NEPTUNE on her way to search Kerguelen Island, has been told to try to intercept.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.B.6. The whole fleet left Alexandria p.m. today for this operation.

East Indies.

Blenheims today successfully attacked Assab.

An aircraft dropped bombs on Maala water front inner harbour today, causing casualties but no damage.

China.

Announcement of the re-opening of the Burma road on 18/10 was made today. Orders were sent to C.in C. China to withdraw from Wei Hai Wei personnel and as far as possible stores and yardcraft.

It is reported that preliminary steps have been taken for the evacuation of American citizens - about 17000 all told - from Japan, China, Hong-Kong, Indo-China, Manchuria, leased territory of Kwantug, Korea and Formosa.

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/8. (D.C. 0201/8) At 1400/8 (D.C. 1420/8).

Portsmouth.

A/A Gun Defences.

Brigadier 35th A/A Brigade informs me that he has received prior notification that four of the eleven 3" case 1 guns are to be surrendered shortly. Until these guns were mounted enemy planes continually flew round the Forts and Eastern entrance with impunity and laid mines at leisure. After these guns had shot down three planes the enemy ceased this irritating practice to the great advantage of the port.
Realise that our potential in A.A. guns must be deployed where most required and I bring to notice the very great value these guns have been here so as to assist in balancing conflicting claims. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1203/8 to Adty.)

Policy

ARGUS

Future employment of ARGUS is under consideration. She is available for D.L.T. and it is proposed she should be used for this purpose at Scapa, unless you consider present arrangement with FURIOUS preferable. (5th S.L. 1651/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

Atlantic. New Anti-U-Boat Patrol.

815 Your 2021/7. Subject to approval of C.in C. H.F. CLYDE can be made available. Proposed she leave Dundee 12/10 escorted as far as Cape Wrath and thence proceed submerged by day to 61°. N. 10° W. Thence on surface to 61°N. 22° W. thence carry out anti-U-boat patrol between 55°N. and 57° N. and 20° W. and 25° W. The above route is suggested after consultation with Admiralty in order to keep Clyde clear of own Forces. On completion of 14 days patrol propose CLYDE proceeds on surface to 52° N. 15° W. thence submerged by day to Falmouth for onward escort to Holy Loch or Plymouth depending on refit situation.
(V.A.S. 2127/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

KENYA.	Your 1307/7 and 1529/7. Regret no aircraft of 18 Group available for this purpose. (H.Q.C.C. 0050/8 to C.in C.W.A.)
LONDONDERRY.	Expect arrive 20 C. Buoy 2100. (LONDONDERRY 0951/8 to C.in C. Rosyth).
CYCLAMEN.	My 1543/7. Gun has arrived. Mounting will be completed P.M./9. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1054/8 to C.in C. Rosyth). If 2-pounder Pom Pom has arrived it should be fitted before CYCLAMEN sails. Otherwise she should be sailed as by my 1541/5/9. (D.O.D. H. 1815/8 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).
Dover.	Patrols for Night 8/9. (V.A. Dover 1516/8)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler line to-day. (F.O.C.S. 1536/8).
COLUMBINE	When ready for sea, should be sailed for Tobermory to work up, after which she should join W.A. Escort Force. (D.O.D. H. 1691/8 to A.S.C.B.S.)
Western Channel.	Night report (C.in C. W.A.1715/8 and 2015/8).
Nore Command.	Movements. (C.in C. Nore 1730/8 to VEGA). M.T.B's available Night 8/9. (C.in C. Nore 1843/8).
HOOD	Can be taken in hand at Tail of the Bank about middle October. Time required will be about 3 weeks. If workmen should be accommodated on board, repairs could be expedited. Final decision to postpone or begin work will be made when REPULSE ready for service. (D.O.D. H. 1830/8 to C.in C. H.F.).
Rosyth Area.	Movements for Night 8/9. (C.in C. Rosyth 1040/8).
Orkneys.	State of A/S Trawlers. (A.C.O.S.1930/8).
Second TOWN Flotilla	Arrived, less HAMILTON, GEORGETOWN, ROXBOROUGH. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2144/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation LUCID

A/M. 2320. Consider operation not practicable tonight Monday 7th. (S.O. Force B. 0012/8 to Adty.).

Your 2320/7. Wind unsuitable. Returning to harbour (Capt. D. 21 0020/8 to Adty.).

Operation postponed. Wind conditions unsuitable (D.O.D.H. 0116/8).

Send M.T.B's of Force B to join MYTILUS broken down, and EGLINGTON and M.L's to OAKFIELD. Proceed with Sweepers. (C.in C. Nore 0310/8 to HAMBLEDON).

All arrangements to be made for carrying out LUCID tonight 8/9. (A.C.N.S.H.0446/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Your 0446. Area QZX.216 and vicinity are well mined. Am asking Dover to clear a passage before tonight. Request Zero Time. (C.in C. Nore 0716/8 to Adty.).

Your 0716. Clear passage cannot be guaranteed by tonight. Minefield has anti-sweeping devices and probably delay action Mines. In good visibility as today it is within sight and range of Gris Nez Batteries. (V.A. Dover 0814/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Prepare to carry out LUCID tonight 8/9. Zero Time 0340/9. Sailing programme as in my 1052/7 with one hour added to all times. Force C adjust movements accordingly. (C.in C. Nore 0814/8 to D.16, D.21 etc.).

MALCOLM to join Force B and embark Capt.Agar. VETERAN to join Force C as S.O. D.16 requested to turn over orders to VETERAN. (C.in C. Nore 1020/8 to D.16).

Appendix One. Appendix Two. (D.D.I.C.1228/8).

Operation LUCID is postponed. 4 days notice will be given before it is intended to carry it out. Operation orders should be retained. (V.C.N.S. 1233/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Cancel my 0814/8. Operation is cancelled. (C.in C. Nore 1220/8 to D.16, D.21, etc.).

/Operation MEDIUM .....

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued)

Operation MEDIUM

Your 1527/7. I made offer of M.T.B's because I thought it possible that the operation might be entirely dependent on their presence and therefore wished to help as far as possible. But the boats here are the two training boats 100 and 102, which by Admiralty order are not operational as their training function is important, and 2 which is earmarked for special Admiralty service. If your strength in motor gun boats is not sufficient I will ask for Admiralty instructions regarding the three Portsmouth M.T.B's.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1107/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1527/7. CARDIFF, VANOC, VOLUNTEER.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1151/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

As it is now understood that M.T.B's have unsuitable armament for engaging E-Boats, request you cancel my 1527/7. (C.in C. W.A. 1207/8 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Your 1107/8. Cancel my 1207/8. M.T.B's are not now required. (C.in C. W.A. 1611/8 and 1711/8 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Zero hour for Naval bombardment is 0330/10. Request Air attack may be concentrated on Port and Docks so that fires started may be in Naval target area. Request Flares be dropped on line 120° to 300° S.W. of Cape La Hague from Zero minus 30 minutes till Zero minus 10 minutes. (C.in C. W.A. 1922/8 to H.Q.B.C.) Air Ministry request orders be given to Naval Units for quick identification of our own Fighter aircraft to avoid danger to close Fighter Escort from Ships A/A armament. (Hd. of M. 2330/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

KREBUS.

Propose postponing KREBUS shoot until certain that South Goodwin Minefield is clear. Should also wish to sweep near 2A Buoy, which can only be done at night. (C.in C. Nore 0934/8 to Adty.).

Considered that Dunkerque Dock area is most profitable target for KREBUS bombardment. Request exact position W buoy and that it may be checked if not now known. In view of enemy mining in Straits of Dover, it is considered that the area of 2 A Buoy is suspect and should be thoroughly swept before any further shoot takes place from there. (C.in C. Nore 1536/8 to Adty.

/Xc

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

BREDUS (continued)	Your 1536. Para. Two. "W" Buoy was fixed with probably a resulting accuracy of about quarter of a mile in its position relative to Dunkerque. (V.A. Dover 1856/8 to C.in C. Nore.).
Shelling from Gris Nez Batteries	Seven 2-gun salvoes were fired from Cape Gris Nez Battery at BOLINGTON, MYTILUS, LADY BRASSEY, and LADY DUNCANNON between 0733 and 0750/8 after they had passed South Goodwin Light Vessel. No damage or casualties. Final salvo straddled South Goodwin Light Vessel at 0740. (V.A. Dover 1301/8 to Adty.).
Western Channel Patrol.	Patrol A.X. (C.in C. W.A. 1509/8 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).
Iceland.	Laying of Hvalfiord Minefield completed. Scientists are still experimenting. Ships leave for Sevdisfiord about 10/10. (MANCHESTER CITY 1630/8 to D.T.M.).
	Albaster has now proposed that Walrus Squadron should remain in Iceland for the winter. Owing to acute shortage of this type of aircraft and the expected high wastage rate in an Icelandic winter this proposal cannot be entertained unless strong arguments can be put forward showing what it is expected the squadron can achieve in the few hours of daylight and adverse weather conditions. (5th S.L. 1650/8 to F.O. Iceland).

Submarines

U3K.	F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1700/2. Detail one A/S Trawler to arrive Barrow 1730/9 to escort U3K to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 1209/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) No escort immediately available. Propose sailing A/S Trawler LADY MADELINE to arrive Barrow A.M./10th. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1810/8 to C.in C. W.A.)
Aircraft Bombing Information.	My 1126/2. Brest. (F.O.S. 1528/8 to S/M's in Area B.)
Greenock Area.	Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1558/8).

/ SUNFISH .....

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines. (continued)

SUNFISH.	Leave Patrol for base 2000/9. Route. (Capt. S.S. 1601/8 to SUNFISH).
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/9. (V.A.S. 1719/8).
MINERVA.	When ready for service is to join 9th S/M Flotilla. (V.A.S. 1804/8 to S.S.).

E-Boats.

Patrol HT.	Reports sound of Motor Boat in North East (F.O. Harwich Force 0436/8 to GUILLEMOT, SHEARWATER).
Lizard.	There are strong indications of probable E-Boat a few miles East of Lizard Head. Investigate, keeping clear of QZX.213. (C.in C. W.A. 2057/8 to KASHMIR, JAGUAR).

British Air Activity.

Bombing restrictions	In area 22 extended to 1200/9 (Capt. S. 2. 0739/8 to PORPOISE).
ALYNBANK	Canal Serial 21 (F.O.C. 1st B.S. 1230/8 to ALYNBANK.)
Rover patrols.	With torpedoes at dusk and during moonlight Cherbourg-Boulogne. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1426/8) Helder, Borkum etc., Cherbourg-Dieppe, Brest - Channel Is.
Aircraft leaving Perth for Stockholm.	Route, time etc. (Air Min. 1440/8) (H.Q.C.C. 1442/8).
Operation No.79.	To be repeated re-night (H.Q.C.C.1440/8).
Air Searches	For 9/10 (C.in C. Rosyth 1847/8)
Balloon barrage Londonderry	Operational with effect from 8/10 (Air Min. 2306/8).

/ Rescue Service .....

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Rescue Service — My 1739/27/9. Experience has shown Walrus type aircraft unsuitable for rescue service when unescorted. Consider defensively armed surface craft working with well armed air R.C. necessary. (R.A.F.A.S. 1308/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

VERNON — Portsmouth Old Grammar School occupied by VERNON Instructional Dept. damaged by fire caused by incendiary bomb at 2200/7. Fire now under control. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0117/8) Details of damage (Supt. C.E. 1725/8).

Convoy "ADAM" — shadowed by one enemy aircraft in 51° 13' N. 1° 28'E. (Whitehall W/T 0808/8).

Tory I. — Unknown aircraft reported over Tory at 1215 moving south (C.in C. W.A. 1225/8).

Frater. — Ref. my 1305/29. One UXB probably 50 kg. has been found at Frater and is being excavated. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1221/8).

CHESHIRE (see ORONSAY) — 1 unidentified aircraft steering 0° 270 55° 30' N. 9° 25' W. (CHESHIRE 1203/8)

Convoy "TOPAZ" (O.A.226). — Shadowed by one aircraft in 56° 43'N. 2° 3'W. (CURACOA 1509/8).

Unknown Ship. — Bombed 1943/8 in 57° 1'N. 11° 9'W. (Lyness T.O.R. 2044/8).

Convoy "PILOT" (F.N.) — Shadowed by one enemy aircraft 52° 39'N. 2° 10'E. (VIMIERA 2036/8).

ORONSAY bombed. — 56°N. 9° 40' W. attacked by aircraft disabled Want Immediate assistance. (ORONSAY 1020/8)

Take tugs SCHELDE and SEAMAN under your orders and proceed to assist ORONSAY in 56° N. 10° W. at 1015/8.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1035/8 to SALVONIA).

/ Am proceeding .....

MOST SECRET.

8.10.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued).

Am proceeding to assist ORONSAY my position course and speed are 055° 46'N. 008° 51'W. 295° 12 knots.

Proceed to ORONSAY bombed in 056° 00'N. 009° 40' W. at 1015.
(C.in C. W.A. 1047/8 to VERITY).

Sail H.M.S. SABRE to assist ORONSAY bombed in 056° 00' N. 009° 40' W. at 1015. VERITY ordered to position.
(C.in C. W.A. 1049/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

Proceed immediately to assist ORONSAY disabled by aircraft in 56° 00' N. 9° 40'W. at 1015. (C.in C. W.A. 1051/8 to CHESHIRE)

Amended position, ORONSAY 56°N. 10°W.
(Scapa W/T 1059/8).

Proceed to assistance of S.S. ORONSAY in position 56° N. 10° W. at 1015.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1113/8 to ENGLISHMAN).

Inform tugs being sent (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1121/8 to VERITY).

Sailed tugs SALVONIA SCHELDE and SEAMAN at 1120. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1147/8).

Your 1044 CHESHIRE has been instructed to proceed to assistance of ORONSAY. On relief by CHESHIRE proceed to join convoy of 3 Merchant vessels estimated position course and speed at 1200 56.00 N. 10.00 W. 275° 10 knots approx. and escort until further orders.
(C.in C. W.A. 1157/8 to SALOPIAN).

CAIRO raise steam and proceed to assist ORONSAY bombed and disabled in 56 00 N. 10 00 W. at 1015.
(C.in C. W.A. 1159/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

ARROW, OTTAWA escorting ORONSAY back to Clyd on one engine from position 056° 06'N. 010° 36' W. when repairs are made good about 1500. Remaining 3 destroyers proceeding with convoy. WHITEHALL in charge. ORONSAY hull intact few casualties. (ARROW 1201/8. 1730/8 to C.in C. W.A., Adty.).

Sailed DUNDEE to assist ORONSAY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1214/8 to Adty.)

Your 1051/8. Escorting ORONSAY to Clyde with ARROW and OTTAWA in company cancel request by ORONSAY for assistance.
(CHESHIRE 1507/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ Sailed CAIRO ..

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity.

Sailed CAIRO. Expect to reach position 0730/9. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1615/8).

ORONSAY now proceeding to Clyde escorted by CHESHIRE and two destroyers. CAIRO is to proceed to provide protection against further air attack.
(C.in C. W.A. 1649/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

My 1157. CHESHIRE is now escorting ORONSAY. Proceed to join convoy direct.
(C.in C. W.A. 1651/8 to SALOPIAN).

You will probably meet convoy O B 225 at about 2000. Alter course to avoid.
(C.in C. W.A. 1637/8 to CHESHIRE).

My position course and speed at 2100 055° 35' 007° 35' W. 090° 10' knots.
(CHESHIRE 2033/8).

Tower Bridge damaged

At 0920/8 one H.E. bomb exploded and splinter fractured hydraulic pipe of Tower Bridge. Bridge open. Bridge out of action for road traffic three to four days. Second H.E. bomb fell, unexploded, midstream abreast Tower Pier. No damage to pier or craft. L.C.C. River passenger traffic diverted to Billingsgate pier.
(F.O.I.C. London 1245/8).

Dover
BURKE
damaged

At 0909 one bomb dropped in Dover harbour. At 1034 one bomb fell on H.M.T. BURKE in tidal basin causing severe damage to ship and some casualties, two bombs fell in Dover harbour and one in the docks area.
(V.A. Dover 1301/8).

London dock area.

D/A bomb dropped 0530/8 on quay at S.E. corner of Junction Dock. W. India Docks, exploded at 1015/8. Considerable damage to quayside, no casualties.
(F.O.I.C. London 1110/8).

Lee on Solent reports low bombing and machine gun by 3 Aircraft. Six bombs dropped no damage to buildings no casualties. One enmy aircraft hit by Lewis guns one small UXB on aerodrome. 1853/8. (R.A.M.A.S. 2311/8.)

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Rosyth	Approaches are closed between 2° 52'W. and Oxcars Boom. (C.in C. Rosyth 0727 to JASON).
Isle of Wight	One Type V. German Mine washed up on Isle of Wight 7/10, presumably from Area QZX. 178. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1000/8 to Adty.)
Falmouth	Until a swept channel has been established into Falmouth, shipping to proceed as follows. (C.in C. W.A. 1055/8) Swept channel not yet completed. Explosive cutter and Mines found in water swept 100% yesterday. Appears some form of delay action cutter and Mine has been laid. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1651/8 to Adty.).
S.E. 6A.	My 0044/6. Proposed position of Field. (R.A.M.L. 1109/8 to Adty.).
Dover.	C.in C. Nore's 0525 and 0716. Q Z S 104 and 105 swept 60% between South Goodwin and No.4 buoy by two trawlers A.M. today. One mine exploded 038° 1 mile No. 4 buoy and another sweep parted at same time. Two trawlers then swept ahead of MYTILUS and EGLINGTON from No. 4 buoy to West Goodwin. Intend to sweep Channel between No. 4 buoy and South Goodwin, with four Trawlers as tide and weather permit P.M. today and continue searching to Eastwards of this section of the Channel till dark. (V.A. Dover 1145/8 to Adty.).
	My 1145 and C.in C. Nore's 1536. No sweeping carried out this afternoon owing to weather. Intend to carry out the same programme starting daylight tomorrow Wednesday as tide and weather permit. Mines appear to be of new type laid shallow and usually detonate in sweep. (V.A. Dover 1903/8 to Adty.)

/ Tunstall .....

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Kingfisher.

Tunstall. The explosion at 0420/3 now identified as caused by a British M.2 Mine. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1710/8 to Adty.).

Harwich. Paddlesweepers in 613 Q.Z. swept 80% south eastwards of a line joining 51° 48.7' N. 01° 42' E. and 51° 46.1' N. 01° 38.8' E. One mine German 'W' type dragged in sweep and sunk, sinker recoverd. Sinker similar to last one recovered at Harwich and sent to VERNON. Tomorrow propose extending clearance to eastward to a line 3 miles West of centre line of 151 Q.Z.S. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1922/8 to Adty.).

Humber. Closed, owing to minelaying by aircraft. (F.O. Humber 2341/8 to Adty.).

LOCUST. Mine exploded immediately astern of LOCUST in 51° 32' 8" N. 1° 12' 12" E. Four casualties. Plummer blocks fractured, and engines out of action. (C.in C. Nore 2301/8).
ROYAL EAGLE and Tug in attendance.
Request Fighter protection from daylight 9th till arrival Nore. (C.in C. Nore 0705/9 to H.Q.F.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. Shipping in Harbour. (H.Q.C.C. 1443/8).

Ijmuiden. One Hospital Ship about 500 tons at 1712/8. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1931/8).

Lorient. Submarines and Shipping at 1500/8. (P.H.U. St. Eval 1950/8 to H.Q.C.C.).

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFENTS

ST. LAURENT. Holed in collision with s.s. SAINT ENOCH in 55° 13' N. 5° 13' W. Do not require assistance. Intend to proceed to Clyde. (ST. LAURENT 0129/8 to C.in C. W.A.). SAINT ENOCH does not need assistance. ST. LAURENT can proceed to Liverpool if required. (ST. LAURENT 0221/8 to C.in C. W.A.) ST. LAURENT returning towards Clyde. Request port for repairs. (C.in C. W.A. 0403/8 to Adty.). SAINT ENOCH reports her bows bent. (ST. LAURENT 1035/8 to Adty.) E.T.A. 0700/9. (ST. LAURENT 0332/8 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

MYTILUS Broken down near S.W. Gate Buoy. (C.in C. Nore 0310/8 to HAMBLEDON).

ST. CLAIR British, 1637 tons. Propose she remain at Clyde until defects have been completed. Not less than one week. (N.O. Greenock 1704/8 to Adty.).

HELIOTROPE Lost contact with you at 0400. Compass out of action. Request assistance. From HELIOTROPE to FLEUR DE LYS. (A.C.O.S. 0525/8). If clear of Convoy report situation 1200. (C.in C. W.A. 0859/8 to HELIOTROPE).

VIMY. ETA. Lough Foyle 0700. Has major defects necessitating docking. Request port for repairs. (C.in C. W.A. 0821/8 to Adty.).

DOUGLAS. Has sustained minor damage due to weather. (DOUGLAS 0902/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

WINCHELSEA. Hove to due to heavy weather in 57° 12' N. 16° 20' W. A/S set out of action (WINCHELSEA 1130/8).

COMMISSAIRE RAIEL. French, 10,061 tons. Due Cape Town 4/10 from Fremantle. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1105. B./8 to Adty.).

VERITY. Am sustaining damage from sea and leaking through forecastle. Position 55° 33' N. 7° 35'W. Course 292° Speed 12 knots. (VERITY 1300/8 to C.in C. W.A.). Oscillator out of action. Am returning to Lough Foyle (VERITY 1417/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

COAST WINDS. British, 862 tons. Last seen by DAGMAR dropping behind O.G. 43 on 24 or 25/9 in about 49° N. 20° W. Not arrived Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1532/8 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.A. 224	To disperse after passing through 56° N., 25° W. (C. in C., W.A. 1150/8
O.L. 6	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1130/8) Had to leave heavy weather. Convoy proceeding independently (WINCHELSEA 1130/8)
E.N. 8	Route (N.C.S.O., Methil 1046/8) Escort GAVOTTE, SOUTHERN STAR, M/S LEDA, PANGBOURNE ROSS, (N.C.S.O., Methil 0721/9)
S.L. 48 B	ARSENAL to meet. (C. in C., W.A., 0900/8)
O.B. 225	Trawlers to R.V. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0201/8) CHESHIRE may meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1837/8)
H.G. 45	Over 50 ships- destroyer escort- See North Atlantic.
O.G. 43	British COAST WING, Straggler, not arrived Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1532/8)
O.B. 224	Escort to remain until 0800/9 (C. in C., W.A., 1600/8) SKATE lost touch (SKATE 1201/8)
S.C. 6	Escort from O.B. 224 to join (C. in C., W.A. 1450/8 1600/8) SKATE unable to join. (SKATE 1201/8)
O.A. 226	Fighter escort (C. in C., Rosyth, 1618/8) CURACOA to remain with (C. in C., H.F., 1239/8)
S.L. 49	Route (F.O.C.N.P. to SALOPIAN 1030/8)
S.L. 48 A	ALYNBANK to escort (F.O.C. (D) H.F., 1112/8)
C.W. 14	Request fighter protection (C. in C., Nore. 1716/8)
O.G. 43	Lisbon pilot's intimate knowledge of- See NEURALIA, North Atlantic.
H.X.	Provisional forecast of escorts, 81 to 85. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1658/8)
H.X. 77	Delay of W.S. 3. precludes initial escort of H.X. 77 being reinforced sufficiently far west. In view of importance of this convoy request H.X. 77 may be re routed South of Rockall. (C. in C., W.A., 1900/8 to Adty.)
Air Protection	A. 136/8/10. Amending A. 120/7/10. re protection to East Coast Convoys. (Air Ministry 1100/8)

/OAKFIELD.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

OAKFIELD — To anchor at Great Nore, (C. in C., Nore, 0804/8)

BEACHY — Movements (D.S.D. 1024/9)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 3 — Owing weather, Liverpool section turned round until weather moderates. Glasgow section not in company. One escort already damaged. DOUGLAS minor damage due to weather. (DOUGLAS 0902/8)
Convoy to turn round and join Clyde section at best speed leaving DOUGLAS behind if weather necessitates. (C. in C., W.A., 1113/8
Early arrival at Suez of great importance. (1st S.L.0009/8) Position by and report at 2000. (A.C.W.A., 2051/8)
Liverpool portion not met. (WHITEHALL, 2020/8

ROYAL ULSTERMAN) WORCESTERSHIRE) — (Sailing for Iceland) Admty 1925/5. Request escort be detailed. (F.O.I.C., Greenock to C. in C., W.A., 1209/8)

Convoy Cycle — Concur with Admty. 1850/7. Consider F.N. and F.S. convoys should continue to run as frequently as escorts allow to avoid shipping delay. (C. in C., Rosyth 1639/8)

QUEEN ELIZABETH — Probably leave New York (date) to fit out as troop transport. To proceed Singapore for dry-docking. (D. of S.T. 1648/8)

SVEADROTT CASTOR — My 2041/30 Swedish authorities inform me they are asking for authority to send tanker CASTOR in company with SVEADROTT from Gothenburg to load oil in America.
Would prefer that two vessels should sail in company. Swedish inform me they have instructions for SVEADROTT to follow channel quoted in Notice to Mariners number 1685 of 1940. If this refers to Skagerack they point out that on account of German minefield crossing British clear channel they are forced to take German Pilot and proceed via Christiansand along the route taken by SVEADROTT on her recent homeward voyage. (N.A. Stockholm, 1745/8)

/A.M.C.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

A.M.C. Escorts

Now that U-Boats are operating beyond 20° W., it is considered that A.M.Cs escorting H.X. convoys should turn round before reaching R/V with A/S escort.
In order that the convoy may not then be wholly unescorted request you will consider the possibility of including one long endurance destroyer in each A/S escort which could R/V with the convoy further to the westward. (D.O.D. (H) 2222/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SEC..

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Straits Patrol	When sufficient destroyers available, patrol to be instituted to prevent French unescorted ships passing through Straits. Spanish territorial waters must be respected. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 0202/8)
SERGENT GOUARNE	My 2215/7 Armed Trawler SERGENT GOUARNE 2136/7 from east to west (S.O.I. Gib., 0815/8
MILFORD	Admty. 2309/9 MILFORD may be used as additional escort, but will not be available until arrival M.T. Convoy off Cameroons River. (C. in C., S.A., 1507M/8)
French Africa	Situation report 30, nothing to report. (D.N.I., 1628/8)
Treatment of French Submarines	My 2033/28/8 and 2300/14/9. Should a French submarine be met in company with a surface warship the ship is to be informed that any attempt by the submarine to dive will be treated as a hostile act and immediate retalliatory action will be taken against both ships. (Head of M. 1509/8)
Enemy Intelligence	Air reconnaissance 9/10 unsatisfactory. 2 ships at Libreville apparently same as 6/10. 2 ships unidentified in Port Gentil. Aircraft unseen (CORNWALL 1722Z/8)
Duala Arrivals	General de Gaulle with 700 troops arrived in COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE WESTERNLAND with 400 troops escorted by CORNWALL sailed for Pointe Noire 2200/8. Expected to arrive daylight 11/10. After disembarkation both vessels subsequently independently to Freetown. Remainder of French troops escorted by DEVONSHIRE and destroyers will sail for Duala 0715/9 SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA sailing later, engine defects. DEVONSHIRE will anchor Manoka until M.T. convoy arrives Duala. SPEARS+ with portion of Mission proceeding Duala, remainder in WESTERNALAND. FAULKNOR FURY FORESTER will sail from Cameroons River bar for Freetown at 1100/9 PENNLAND sailed unescorted 2100/8 for Freetown. Expected to arrive p.m./13. (F.O.C.I.C.S., 2201/A/8)

MOST SECRET

8.10.1940
Tuesday

For Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

H.G. 45 Escorts — In view of convoy H.G. 45, consisting of over 50 ships intend to sail HOTSPUR and FIREDRAKE owing to their high endurance as extra escort till 15/10. This will mean that two of four destroyers of 13th D.F. available to S.O. Force H will consist of V E E class until return of HOTSPUR and FIREDRAKE about 17/10. (F.O.C.N.A., 1734/8) Your 2310/6. Reason to believe sailing of H.G. 45 has been reported to enemy agents. (D.N.I. to F.O.C.N.A., 1859/8)

NEURALIA — Report from master that Portuguese pilot who boarded ship at Lisbon knew distribution of Convoy O.G. 43, and that 10 ships from Portuguese ports were sailing to join convoy leaving Gib. 10/10. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1722/8)

Lisbon Shipping — Your 1047/6 and 1901/7. VIDETTE is now patrolling on line Cape Trafalgar- Cape St. Vincent. (F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 1021/8 to N.C.S.O., Lisbon)

Air Patrols — 3 surface reconn., 2 A/S patrols. (200 Group, 1720/8)

Suspicious Ship — WINDSOR CASTLE sighted suspicious vessel 30/9 position 003° 08' S 017° 18' W., course 330° speed 12 knots. Description. Vessel may be raider homeward bound for Germany or German occupied Port. (F.O.C.N.A., 1704/8 to CUMBERLAND, AUSTRALIA, etc.)

South Atlantic

COMMISSAIRE RAHEL — Due Capetown 4/10 from Fremantle, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1105B/8)

BARHAM — Route amended owing large fuel consumption (BARHAM 1140Z/8)

Hospital Ship — Union Dept. of Defence cannot spare SELANDIA, and renew urgent request for hospital ship. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1242/8

Troop Movements — Union Dept. of Defence have no definite plans after C.M. 4. Release of DURBAN CASTLE and LLANGIBBY CASTLE. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1246/8)

/Suspicious Ship...

MOST SECRET

8.10.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

Suspicious Ship — Oiler resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted 37.06 S., 27° E., course 280°, speed 10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C., 0146/8) My 0146. Silhouette of TUSCANIA closely resembles that of German tanker EUROFIELD which left Teneriffe 3/9 fully loaded. (D.D.I.C., 1257/8.) My 0146. Confirm on arrival of BRITISH VISCOUNT Abadan to Table Bay that she was not vessel referred to. (D.D.I.C., to N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1543/8)

NEPTUNE to intercept — Admty. 0146/8. Endeavour to intercept. (C. in C., 1757N/8)

Admty. 0146/8. Norwegian PAN EUROPE located by Air Reconnaissance, 1443Z/8 in 36.49 S., 20.17 E., Silhouette similar to TUSCANIA. Due Capetown 9/10 where movements will be confirmed. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 2152B/8)

ARAWA — Required to escort convoy sailing from Freetown end of October. (C. in C., E.I., 2045/8)

Raider Report — Following received 0231/9 from HIGHLAND PRINCESS:- At 1235/8 G.M.T., Q raider distress signal was heard on I.C.W. being immediately deliberately jammed by Spark signals. Within a few seconds both stations ceased transmitting. No other particulars that the Q signal were heard. At 1540 weak I.C.W. signals apparently retransmitting the original message were heard. Deliberate interference this occasion. Both stations ceased simultaneously. Transmitting period too brief to obtain D/F bearing. My position at this time 001° 03' S., 031° 25' W., (Portishead Radio 2118/8) Repeated to C. in C., S.A., (D.N.I., 0532/9)
Following ship, possibly returning raider in 03 08 S., 17 18 W., at 1430/30 course 330 degrees 12 knots. (Description)
(C. in C., W.A., 1105/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Press Communique — Your 1532/4. Reasons appreciated, but considered desirable to inform Italians Malta had been reinforced. (1st. S.L., to C. in C., Med., 1013/8)

Operation B.S. — Orders to TRIAD, (N.O.I.C., Malta 1157/8)

Evacuations — From Malta. Information requested re facilities. (V.A.Malta, 1921/8)

Aircraft Reconnaissance — Malta situation report to 1700/8. All times G.M.T. Following aircraft carried out reconnaissances covering same area as in report of 6/10, for enemy surface forces. 03.34 - 05.50 - Swordfish of 830 squadron F.A.A. sighted at 04.18 hrs. three enemy destroyers - position 094° Delimara point - 48 miles - course 014° speed 20 knots. Enemy then increased speed to 30 knots altering course to make landfall about Syracuse. W/T silence broken to report this but no message received here hence aircraft receiving no acknowledgement returned immediately and before landing dropped message giving position of enemy at 05.45 hrs. as 124° Cape Passero - 28 miles - course 348° - speed 30 knots. Striking force not sent out as enemy would be in Augusta or near Sicilian coast off Catania when intercepted. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (Govr., Malta, 2239/8)

M/S Tug — BRITANNIA, at Alexandria, renamed BLUE DANUBE. (Hd of P Branch, 2320/8)

TRUANT — Orders for patrol and arrival Alexandria. (Capt. S. 1. 2355/8)

Bucharest W/T — Very polite with British station and asking for traffic. May indicate Germans have taken control. (C.T.C., 1315/8)

Turkish Visit — Visit of Turkish Delegation to Fleet. V.A. Ulgen to report personally to President on his return. (C. in C., Med., 1159/8) Re instructions to Turkish Mission (Mil. Attache, Ankara, to W.O., 2000/8)

/Fleet Strength.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Fleet Strength — My 1845/5. Re statement of requirements for attack on Libyan communications. (C. in C., Med., 1155/8) (See Mediterranean Volume)

Dodecanese — Intelligence reports on results of recent raids. (C. in C., Med., 1137/8)

East Indies

Suspicious Ship — Oiler resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted 37.06 S., 27° E., course 280° speed 10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C., 0146/8) See South Atlantic.

U.S. 6. — Concur in A.C.N.B. 0301/8. (C. in C., E.I., 1204/8)

VARELLA — Troop transport sailed for Bombay. (S.T.O., Mombasa, 0523Z/8)

Staff — Re J.P.S. and additional N.O. for Intelligence (your 1921/3) Observations, (C. in C., E.I., 0516/Z/8)

S.W. 2. — Amending his 1050/7. re position for R.V. (C. in C., E.I., 1358Z/8)

W.S. 3. — Admty. 2300/7. Unless ARAWA available, CARTHAGE can escort W.S. 3. (slow) from Durban to Aden. Complications will arise due to W.S. 3. Possibly coinciding on being close to B.N. 8 and B.S. 8. may be necessary to use DORSETSHIRE or ask C. in C., Med., for assistance. (C. in C., E.I., 0954Z/8)

China

Wei-Hai-Wei Withdrawal — F.O. tel. 1060 to Tokyo, re Wei-Hai-Wei. Request you arrange for withdrawal of personnel and as far as possible stores and yard craft as proposed by N.O.I.C. Wei-Hai-Wei 0057/2. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., China, 1916/8)

Singapore Defence Conference — C.O.S. telegram No 12. Decided that C. in C., China, should preside. Hoped representatives of U.S.A. and N.E.I., will be brought in. (1st. S.L., 1608/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Raider Reports

ANTONIA 0850/8. Raider reported was H.M.S. AUSONIA (AUSONIA 0905/8) QQQQ 45.00 N., 41.50 W., ATHEL QUEEN. Unknown ship closing 1545. QQQQ 44.56 N., 41.47 W., ATHEL QUEEN Unknown ship closing 1556. (Lands End Radio, 1654/8, 1701/8) ATHEL QUEEN, cancel my distress 1633/8. (Portishead Radio, 1743/8)

HAKOZAKI MARU

Your 1602/7. Ship to be detained. (D.E.W.D to C. in C., A.W.I., 1352/8) Following from M.E.W. HAKOZAKI MARU may now be released (D.E.W.D., 1828/8 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Halifax Oil Storage

Your 1141/4. Welcome any steps you may take in accordance with your para (7) to meet requirements that can be definitely foreseen. Details of your para (2) seem to envisage circumstances which could not arise unless there had been a successful invasion of this country, which could only be achieved after the destruction of the Fleet. Such a contingency is, we think, even more remote now than when the Prime Minister made his declaration on 4/7) (Hd. of M., 1406/8 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

French M.V.

Following from Air Mail Censorship. CHARLES L.D. left Casablanca 28/9 for Martinique with soldiers for repatriation. Ship due Martinique 10/10 will remain approximately 10 days and return to Morocco with load of sugar. Propose to intercept her on departure from Martinique if other commitments allow. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1101/8)

Australia

U.S. 5. A.

Route. Escort PERTH (D.N.O., W. Australia, 0125Z/8) PERTH and U.S. 5. A. arrived Fremantle 1040Z/7. ADELAIDE arrived Sydney 2026Z/7. (A.C.N.B., 0100Z/8) Left Fremantle 2300Z/7 for Bombay. Escorts (A.C.N.B. 0951Z/8)

U.S. 6.

Admty. 1610/6. Proposed escort. Sydney to Bass Straits, ADELAIDE; Bass Straits to R.V. in Indian Ocean, PERTH; thence to Bombay, CANBERRA. (A.C.N.B., 0301Z/8) Prospective sailing date. (A.C.N.B., 0518Z/8)

U.S. 7 and 8

Composition and prospective sailing dates. (A.C.N.B., 0518Z/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EUROFELD — Ship sighted resembling - See South Atlantic.

(a) KLAUS SCHOKE)
(b) LUISEBORTHOFEN) My 1910/4. Both ships in inner harbour to Transfer 100 tons coal from (b) to (a) probably on 8/10. (V.C., Horta, 2250/7) Considerable activity in business ashore. (V.C. Horta, 2359/8)

RUDERSCHEIM — B. 2 report SPRINGFJORD. launched 1939 at Trondheim for a London firm, left Trondheim 30/9 with troops. Reported renamed RUDERSCHEIM.

ARKADIA — Arrived Istanbul 4/10. Due to leave 11/10 for Odessa and Braila. (D.S. 400)

SALZBURG — Arrived from Istanbul with 2078 tons general cargo. (Galatz, 1021/8)

Lulea — All German ore ships with double decks in Luela on 30/9 ordered to return to Germany at once. (D.S. 400)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CARMEN — C. 2. report. torpedoed off Durazzo on 30/9. (D.S. 399)

ORATA — Discharging her cargo ashore at Las Palmas on 4/10. (D.S. 400)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLES L.B. — See America and West Indies.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH GENERAL (Torpedoed 6/10)

Failed to find in positions given. Must abandon search at 1200/8. Fuel only to reach Londonderry. Search restricted by yesterday's gale. 51.25 N., 21.40 W., (HARVESTER, 0930/8)

TANCRED (Sunk 26/9)

Norwegian TANCRED sunk by one torpedo 0707 G.M.T. 26/9 053° 32' N., 024° 35" W. Submarine not seen before attack but surfaced and shelled ship after abandonment then proceeded west on surface could not be described owing to darkness. No casualties Full crew 36 arrived New York in Norwegian TRICOLOUR, life boat stood by watched ship sinking. (N.C.SO. New York, 1451/8)

TOURAINE (Torpedoed 7/10)

Norwegian 5811 tons, torpedoed 1615/7. 12 survivors picked up in 55.14 N., 10.34 W., by DERBYSHIRE. 2 more boats in vicinity. Ships had not sunk by 1900/7. (DERBYSHIRE 2115/8)

CONFIELD

Torpedoed 2030/8 See 9/10.

Submarines Reported

0432 — D.F. Unidentified enemy unit, probable U-Boat, 58.40 N., 4.40 E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0540/8)

1211 — 55°-56° N., 22°-25° W., say 500' W. of Bloody Foreland. (D.8.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No Information.
German : 1 in about 55° N- 56° N., 22° W- 25° W., at 1211/8.
1 or 2 more well West of 20° W. between latitudes 50° N and 58° N.
1 probably between 53° 30' N., and 55° N., and 15° and 20° W.
No information of any U/B East of 15° W.,
1 about 58° N., 5° E at 0432/8, homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1258/8)

MOST SECRET

9.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Three ships of Convoy S.C. 6. were torpedoed 300 miles N.W. of Malin Head about 2100 today (CRAIGWEN, ZANNES GOUNARIS, DELPHIN)

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night attacked Channel ports, docks at the Haque, Bremen shipyards, and TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven; near misses, including that of a 200 lb S.A.P. bomb were seen near the latter.

One Blenheim also bombed Le Havre quays today.

Enemy Air Activity

Two attacks were made on St. Merryn R.N.A.S. Station today. Damage was done and the aerodrome is unserviceable due to unexploded bombs.

Damage was caused at the London dock area in attacks today.

SS ALDERNEY QUEEN was bombed and machine gunned at 1600 today in the southern Irish Sea, and was sunk.

Mining

Operation B.S.40 — Three Swordfish laid mines off the mouth of the Ems River.

M/S Trawler SEA KING was sunk by underwater explosion in Grimsby Roads this evening.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the north east coast between Hartlepool and St. Abbs Head and between Flamborough Head and the Humber.
The Humber was opened this morning.

Tees and Hartlepool were closed this evening.

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

The French submarine PONCELET which was previously at Libreville is reported to have arrived at Port Gentile (French Equatorial Africa) 3/10.

General de Gaulle landed at Duala today and was well received.

Mediterranean

At 0418/8 a Swordfish of F.A.A. sighted 3 enemy destroyers off Eastern Sicily and reported, but no message was received in Malta Receiving no acknowledgement, the aircraft returned at once and dropped a message giving the position of the enemy. The latter would have been in Augusta or near the coast of Sicily when intercepted, and no striking force was sent out.

3 Blenheims today attacked shipping at Tobruk. Two tankers were hit and on one of them a fire started. Direct hits were made on a large ship.

Four enemy aircraft which approached Malta this morning were intercepted by a British aircraft. One of the enemy was shot down and another so damaged as to be unlikely to reach its base.

East Indies

Blenheims attacked targets at Assab again today. The fires started during the attack early yesterday morning were still burning at 0600 today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — At 0200/9 (D.C. 0228/9) At 1400/9 (D.C. 1401/9)

More Command Notice for Steam — Ships not required for duty keep steam at 4 hours notice. (C. in C., More, 1055/9)

Policy

A/A Defence of South Coast Towns — The attack by single planes on South Coast town presents an awkward problem. Eastbourne for instance is visited daily and yesterday was five times bombed by a single machine.
I suggest that a partial antidote to this for of attack which appears to be steadily on the increase, would be some mobile A/A guns, which could move from town to town and spring a surprise on the enemy, who would offer easy targets as they fly low on these occasions. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1027/9 to Adty.)

The ruse is already being employed by Fighter Command in accordance with their appreciation of the tactical situation and requirements. (D. of L.D. 2107/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Force ACTIVE — 753. Understand Force ACTIVE is being disbanded. Commanding Officers have already gone. Suggest vessels at Newhaven with C. and M parties where they will be available at short notice if required. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2217/9 to Admty.)

Movements

30th M/S Flotilla — Admty. 1831/7. Intend sailing Flotilla less SHOVA 10/10 to join F.N. 4. for passage to Rosyth. (F.O.Humber 1130/9 to Adty.)

SCIMITAR — Your 0930/9. Remain at Lough Foyle. (C. in C., W.A., 1227/9 to SCIMITAR)

Dover — Patrols for night 9/10. (V.A.Dover, 1442/9)

JERSEY — Request you sail JERSEY from Humber at 0700/10 for Plymouth to arrive there about 0700/11. Route. (C. in C., Nore, 1514/9 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

/Trawler Lines...

MOST SECRET

9.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Northern Patrol	Trawler Lines 9/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/9)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 9/10. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1557/9)
Rosyth Area	Estimated positions for 2000/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1746/9)
Nore Command	M.T.B's available at Harwich, Chatham and Sheerness. (C. in C., Nore, 1915/9)
DOUGLAS	Intend sailing DOUGLAS on completing fuelling as by R.A.D.'s 1154/7. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1053/9 to R.A.D.) Delayed by electrical defects. Intend to sail her at 0630/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1604/9 to R.A.D.)

Operations

Operation FRUIT	Cancelled. (V.A.Dover 0658/9 to H.Q.F.C.)
Operation LUCID	Seems necessary consider possibility that enemy may now have information about operation Lucid. After 4 postponements talk on shore more or less inevitable. Other pointers are new mine-fields off South Goodwin and tendancy to bring E-Boats to Calais and Boulogne while keeping outer harbours comparatively clear of shipping. Suggest this valuable operation be deferred till good target exists at one or both ports. If outer harbour sufficiently full there would be little need to cancel operation due to wind not being in desired direction. (C. in C., Nore, 0936/9 to Admty.)
New A/S Submarine Patrol in Atlantic	Your 2127/8. Approved. (C. in C., H.F., 0937/9 to V.A.S.) My 0937/9 only referred to use of CLYDE for this patrol. Position of patrol is matter for C. in C., W.A. Re D.F. Watch being maintained. (C. in C., H.F., 1301/9 to V.A.S.) Your 2127/8. Concur. (C. in C., W.A., 1317/9 to V.A.S.)

/Iceland.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations—Contd.

Iceland

Adnty. 1925. ANTHONY and AMAZON escort for WORCESTERSHIRE, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, (C. in C., W.A., 0947/9 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)

Adnty. 1650/8. It is of reat importance to security ideas that air R.C. be maintained With good shelter which army are ready to provide appears no reason why R/C to full endurance of Walrus should not be carried out on even shortest days if weather good enough to make enemy landing a possibility. Large number of sheltered fiords Iceland which enemy submarines could use require air R/C.
No other means of investigating report from fishing vessels or coast watchers.
A/S Patrol Reykjavik of importance in view of large amount of sea transport during coming winter. Only alternative appears to be flying boats. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1654/9 to Adty.)

Your 1704/8. ST. CLAIR should be sailed for Reykjavik as arranged in Convoy B.A.S. 4 (D.O.D. H. 2128/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Force D

Intend to carry out operation on lines of D.H. with FURIOUS, BERWICK, NORFOLK and necessary Destroyers. Force to sail pm/12 and carry out phase one during moonlight 15/16 with option of 24 hours postponement if weather unsuitable. Phase two will only be carried out if circumstances favourable. Force would return to Scapa about 20/10, and ill be known as Force D. (C. in C., H.F. 1013/9 to Adty.)

My 1013/9. Oiler MONTENOL escorted by 2 Tribals to be sailed for Sknale Fiord Faroes to arrive p.m. 12/10. After completing with fuel, these destroyers are to rendezvous with force D. as required to provide screen for phase one, the original screen returning to Scapa.
When relieved, on completion of phase one, the 2 Tribals are to escort Oiler MONTREAL back to Scapa. F.O.C.B.C.S. pass by hand to FURIOUS and BERWICK. (C. in C., H.F. 1019/9 to A.C.O.S.)

/Operation MEDIUM...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation-Contd.

Operation MEDIUM

Your 2350/8. Request information as to number, type, and, if possible, formation of Fighter Escort. (C. in C., W.A., 1222/9 to Adty.)

Reference para. 6 of my letter Ops/51 of 8/10. Cancellation if made by Bomber Command is to be passed to Coastal Command by 1800 hours. Cancellation if made by Royal Navy will be passed to Coastal Command via 15 Group by 1900 hours. As already instructed Coastal Command should pass cancellation to all concerned. (Air Ministry 1300/9 to Air Commands)

Request you inform CARDIFF, VANOC, VOLUNTEER that Motor Gunboats will not take part owing to weather. (C. in C., W.A., 1449/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operation postponed ¼ hours. C. in C., Portsmouth inform Force F. (C. in C., W.A. 1733/9 to Adty., C. in C., Portsmouth, V.A.Dover, V.A.S. REVENGE, D. 5. and NEWCASTLE) (H.Q.C.G. 1755/9 to 15 Group)

My 1733/9. Request arrangements be made with either Bomber or Coastal Command for Operation to be carried out at 0330/11. (C. in C., W.A., 1744/9 to Adty.)

Re special orders re recognition of friendly aircraft and tactics of escorting fighters. (Air Ministry, 1800/9 to Adty.)

ALERT

A/L. M 010327/40 of 3/10. Propose that ALERT be based at Newhaven for the operation, which can take place as soon as she arrives there. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1627/9 to Adty.)

EREBUS

Your 1536/8. Dunkirk Dock Area appears a profitable Target. (A.C.N.S., H 2217/9 to C. in C., Nore.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

WILK	Passes May Island 1930/9 for Patrol near 58° 10' N., 4° 40' E., Route (Capt. S. 3rd S/M. F. 1139/9 to SUNFISH) to proceed to patrol in 58° 55' N., 4° 30' E., (F.O.S. 2011/9)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0700/10. (V.A.S 1604/9 and 2049/9)
Bombing Information	My 1126/2. Havre. (F.O.S. 1716/9 to UPRIGHT)
	My 102/100 of 16th August. Three submarines are required weekly commencing 14/10. As I am informed only two submarines are available from 7th S/M.F. it is requested that application may be made to V.A. S/M for a third S/M. Three S/Ms are required from now onwards. (NIMROD 1729/9 to Capt. S. 7.)
UPRIGHT	In D. 4. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1735/9)
RUBIS SUNFISH STURGEON	In view of enemy activity in Skaggerak, RUBIS to proceed to 59° 20' N., 4° 20' E., SUNFISH and STURGEON are not to return to Base, but are to remain on patrol until further orders. (V.A.S. 1852/9 to S/Ms in Area A.) SUNFISH to patrol near 58° 30' N., 5° 10' E STURGEON in Zone C. 1. (F.O.S. 2012/9)

E-Boats

Aldeburgh	Following from WAVEFLOWER. Small craft proceeding at high speed North Easterly. Our position Aldeburgh Float. (N.O.I.C., Harwich 0115/9 to GUILLEMOT, SHEARWATER)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

BELLONA II — British, 840 tons. Bombed and set on fire 4 miles East of Gourdon. 11 killed, 17 picked up by Gourdon Lifeboat. Ship burning but still afloat and drifting North. A/P Trawler TERVANI ordered to stand by and tow to Dundee. (C. in C., Rosyth 0111/9 to Admty)

Lee-on-Solent Naval Air Station — Air Raid on p.m./8. Details of damage. Repairs estimated £50. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1230/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

Ford R.N. Air Station — Air-Raid at dusk 8/10. Details of damage. Full details not yet available. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1240/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

Sheerness — 2 bombs were dropped near A/A Range. No immediate repairs needed. (O.C.W. Sheerness 1240/9 to Civil Lord.)

Eastleigh R.N. Station — Air-Raid at dusk 8/10. Details of damage. Repairs estimated £100 (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1913/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

St. Merryn — 2 attacks at 1900 and 2015/9 by at least 2 Dornier Aircraft with H.E. and Incendiary Bombs. No casualties. Some damage. Aerodrome unserviceable owing to U.X.B's. (St. Merryn 2105/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Portland — Attacks on Dockyard by 2 aircraft between 2020 and 2140. About 8 bombs dropped. Details of damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2227/9 to Adty.)

Mining

Humber — Heavy Explosion reported by a Balloon Barrage Drifter at 0402/9 near and to Northward of Chequer Shoal Buoy. (F.O. Humber, 0930/9 to Adty.)
Humber is open to navigation. (F.O.Humber 1016/9 to Adty.)

ACTUOSITY — British, 359 tons, in Convoy F.S. 97, sank after striking submerged object at 0400/3rd October, about half a mile West of No 8 B Buoy laid in 52° 57' 30" N., 1° 29' 30" E. No pronounced impact or explosion, but strong smell of gas detected. Crew landed at Cromer. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1140/3 to Adty.) Note: Message received 1215/8/10.

/SN 6 A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

SN. 6A. 1A. — Cancel my 1109/8. Proposed position of Field as follows (R.A.M.L. 1421/9 to Adty.)

SN.10 A
SN.10O — Unless SN.10 A can be carried out before 12/10, intend to carry out SN.10O (Trial Lay off Port ZA) on that date. (R.A.M.L. 1523/9 to Adty.)

Tees
Hartlepool — Ports closed owing to suspected Minelaying. Weather at present unfavourable for sweeping (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2115/9 to Adty.)

SEA KING
(M/S Trawler) — Regret report loss by underwater explosion in Grimsby Roads. Believed no survivors. (F.O. Humber 2141/9 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Possible
Raider — M/V sighted 30/9 in 3°S 17° W., steering 330° at 12 knots may be a homeward bound Raider. Description. (F.O.C.N.P. 1149/9 to Northern Patrol)

Cherbourg — Photographic R/C on 5 and 7/10. (D.D.I.C. 1216/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Skaggerak — German W/T activity suggest passage of German Naval Unit, possibly Destroyers or larger vessels, through Skagerrak and Northwards along coast of Norway commencing p.m./9. (V.A.S. 1852/9 to S/M's Area A)

MOST SECRET

9.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DROMORE CASTLE — British, 5242 tons. Due Durban 5/9 from Cardiff. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town, 1215/B/9 to Adty.)

ANDELLE — Due Durban 5/9 from Freetown. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town, 1215 B/9 to Adty.)

DOUGLAS — Delayed by electrical defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1604/9 to R.A.D.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
HX 76 B	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 1410/9)
FS 5 & FN 7	Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1511/9, 1526/9)
WN 21	CURACOA to rejoin, previous order to meet HX 76 cancelled (R.A.D. H.F., 1913/9)
BAS 4	ST CLAIR to sail for Reykjavik in. (D.O.D. (H) 2128/9)
HX 76 A	HEARTSEASE to join (C. in C., W.A., 1609/9) Position at 1800/9. Waiting arrival of HX 76 B dispersing 2200 (HEARTSEASE, 1805/9) Cancel my 1609 (C. in C., W.A., 2127/9)
HX 79	Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. 2200/8)
SL 51	Additions to 1522/4 (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1147/9)
HX 77	Amend route (D.T.D., 1253/9 Cancelled) (C. in C., W.A., to RAMPURA, 1520/9 and to F.O.C.N.P., 1540/9)
HX 80	Ocean escort LACONIA, sailing 12/10, returnh to Halifax (F.O. 3 B.S. 1214/9) My 1453/8 COULTARN carrying explosives. (N.O.I.C., Halifax 1454/8)
SHX 80	Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O., Halifax 1040/9)
HX 81	Time and position (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1029/9)
OG 44	Delayed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1239/9)
HX 79	Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 2205/8 recd. 1046/9)
HG 45	List, cargoes, distributions. (F.O.C.N.A. 2141/9)
SL 48	Instructions re BRITISH AMBASSADOR (D.O.D. (H) 1811/9)
OB 226	List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0916/9)
OA 227	Route (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0943/9)
HG 45	Route (F.O.C.N.A., 2130/9) (D.T.D. 1933/9)
EN and WN	Proposed cycle (D.T.D., 1933/9) Concur in C. in C., Rosyth 1639/8 (C. in C., Nore, 0957/9)

/Air Escort.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Air Escort

Admty. 1906/4, notifying increase in convoy traffic East and North Coast. Fighter escort impracticable. Fighter cover will be provided to best ability of squadrons available. (H.Q., F.C., to Admty 1635/9)

Convoy Positions

Estimated for 2000/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1746/9)

Odd Convoys
OB 226
SL 49

SS BEACHY expects to leave Clyde 9/10 in Convoy O.B.C. 226. BEACHY and ESCORT will leave Convoy about p.m./12. Will rendezvous with convoy SL 49 about 13/10 and return to Clyde with them. Balloon may fly as high as 2500 feet. (D.S.D. 1024/9 to Air Min. F.O.6.)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 3. Escorts in South Atlantic and Red Sea (D.O.D. (F) 1354/9) Request appreciation of positions of both parts and escorts. (D.C. 2125/9) Reply (C. in C. W.A. 2223/9) Parted company with KENYA and Clyde portion at 1600. Weather bad. Damage to destroyers. (ACTIVE 2310/9) Routes (C. in C., W.A., 1030/9, 1040/9)

W.S. 4. Provisional cruiser escorts.

Avoiding Contacts

Attention of Commodores to be drawn to M.N. Code, article 54 A. Importance of ships keeping clear of an escort vessel investigating a contact to be stressed at convoy conferences.

St. Lawrence

Re routing by N.C.S.O's Clyde and Liverpool of ships for Quebec, Montreal, etc., by longer route south of Bermuda, Anticosti (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1804/7)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN

A.M. 1925/5. Sailing cancelled. (D.O.D.(H) 1204/9)

ALA

Norwegian. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to intercept (C. in C., W.A., 1530/9) Take no further action regarding ALA. (C. in C., W.A., 2300 9)

MUALA

Norwegian. Trawler to intercept. (C. in C. W.A., 2310/9) Sailed H.M.T. SPHENE (F.O.I. Belfast, 0135/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Coal Situation — Remarks on, in view of expected delays in turn round of shipping East Coast. (C. in C., Nore, 2220/9)

Zigzagging — Cancel my 1933/6 and 1707/7. Amended instructions (D.T.D., 1734/9) Your 2020/7 Admty. 1933/6 and 1707/7 are being cancelled and a revised signal being sent out. In this Commodores are being instructed that they must make the R.V. on correct approach course. Evasive steering is not to be carried out E of 10° W when south of 57° N. (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1510/9)

MOST SECRET.

9.10.1940.
Wednesday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Azores, SHEFFIELD.	Probable objectives of any enemy attack. (D.O.D. (F) to SHEFFIELD, 1927/9). On parting company from H.M.S. SHEFFIELD to patrol vicinity of Azores to prevent any enemy attempt to capture these islands. Instructions. (A.C.N.S.(F) to SHEFFIELD, 1915/9).
Lisbon.	Belgian ships at. Reply to Admty. 1941/7. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1462/8).
AUSTRALIA.	On arrival at Gibraltar, temporarily to form part of Force H. (D.O.D. (F) 1914/9) Admty. 1913/4. From 0330 Z/8 to 0100 Z/8 patrol maintained between line 020° from Arnel Point, St. Miguel, and Comprida Point to depth of 55 miles from line St. Miguel - Graciosa. Nothing sighted. (AUSTRALIA, 0035/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Force H Report.	Admiralty 1635/8. My R. of P No.68/9 of 7/10 covering period of Azores Patrol despatched in Sunderland flying boat which arrived U.K. 8/10. (S.O. Force H, 0850/9).
Libreville. Food.	Following from Gen. de Gaulle. From intercepted telegram, Vichy Force in Gabon serious food shortage. Imperative all supplies to Libreville should be stopped 1850/8. (C.in C. S.A. 0934/9).
French Submarine.	Consul.Gen. Leopoldville states French Intelligence Bureau reports from Gabon that submarine PONCELET arrived port Gentile 3/10. (C.in C.S.A, 1717N/9, 1833N/9). This is one of submarines previously reported at Libreville. (C.in C. S.A. 2017/9).
Dakar. Expected Attack.	Consul, Tangier, No 48 to F.O. reports that French Navy Office, Casablanca, convinced we are shortly going to launch a second attack on Dakar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2048/9). Report on Dakar by Master of Swedish MILOS (C.in C.S.A. 2031/9).
Freetown. Reconn. by French A/C.	Visited by French A/C 7 times during 12 days. Undesirable should be exposed to frequent reconn. Urge A/A defences should be completed and increased, and completion of Hastings aerodrome and provision of fighter squadron hastened. (C.in C. S.A. 1837/9).
Report of enemy ships.	N.A. Madrid 1301/7. Details of ships which passed westbound (Spanish). (S.O.I. Gib. 1552/9).
French Intelligence.	From interrogation of French personnel who have arrived Gibraltar from Morocco. (S.O.I. Gib. 1246/9).
French Submarine Crew.	Admty. 1329/3. BARHAM has on board 5 officers and 62 ratings survivors from (?French) submarine AJAX. Presume instructions will be given for disposal on arrival Gibraltar. (C.in C. S.A. 1845/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.(Contd.)

Duala. French Submarine. — On arrival of M.T. Convoy A/S watch at anchor is to be maintained as follows; MILFORD to anchor in mid channel to S.E. of number 3 buoy, KELT in mid channel between B and C buoys. When all ships of convoy have been taken to Duala, MILFORD and KELT are to anchor to southward of base buoy as arranged by MILFORD and keep A/S watch to protect DEVONSHIRE in Monaka anchorage. French submarine is reported as having left Libreville. (F.O.I.C.S. 1126A/9).

KELT. — After arrival of M.T. Convoy and if not required by you or at Duala, to proceed Lagos, coal and then proceed Freetown. (C.in C.S.A.1809/9).

Destroyers. — My 2201/8. Expected time of arrival Freetown 0800/13. (F.O.I.C.S. 2355/9).

AUDACIEUX. — French Press 2/10 - 5/10. Admty. announce destroyer AUDACIEUX severely hit Dakar, ran aground. (Wolffson.1100/9).

Dakar. Situation. — Becoming normal. Martial law abolished 3/10. Food situation improved. Majority pro- De Gaulle before action. Great number would still support De Gaulle if led. (Acting Govr., Sierra Leone, 1953/9).

South Atlantic.

ARAWA. — To be at disposal of C.in C.S.A. from arrival Capetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).

CUMBERLAND. — To continue as escort for W.S.3 (Slow) to Durban, handing over to CARTHAGE. (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).

DORSETSHIRE. — May if necessary be used for Red Sea escort of W.S.3 (Fast). (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).

ULSTER PRINCE. — Sailed from Capetown 0725/9. Route as C.inC. E.I.0812Z/29/9. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0734B/9).

DROMORE CASTLE. ANDELLE. — Due Durban 5/9 from Cardiff and Freetown respectively, not arrived. (S.O.I Capetown, 1215B/9).

KELT. — After arrival of M.T. Convoy and if not required by you or at Duala, to proceed Lagos, coal, and proceed Freetown. (C.inC.S.A. to 1.C.S. etc. 1809/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.(Contd.)

Raider. A raider has been reported in neighbourhood 000° 033° 00' at 1235Z/8. As soon as you have made satisfactory arrangements about TOUAREG at Takoradi proceed I 34 and thence to Freetown to arrive p.m./17 for convoy W.S. 3. CORNWALL on leaving Pointe Noire proceed through position 005° 00' 014° 00' and thence to Freetown to refuel. (C.inC. S.A. 2019N/9 to DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL).

Mediterranean.

Turkey. Chiefs of Staff agree to attitude of frankness with Turks and concur in your proposals. (W.O. to C.in C. M.E. 0020/9).

KENT. To be sailed when ready via Cape for final repair in U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 1355/9).

Turkey. Mission arrived 6/10. Message for C.I.G.S. from Gen. Wavell. (C.in C. M.E. 1055/7 recd. from W.O.1750/9).

Movements. RAINBOW, TRUANT, and TRIAD. Convoy L E 21, escort KINGSTON CORAL leaves Alexandria p.m/9 for Port Said 10/10 Haifa 11/10. (C.in C. Med. 1532/9). TRIAD, ROVER, PROTEUS, RAINBOW, REGENT and PARTHIAN. Convoy M.F.3 escorted by COVENTRY, CALCUTTA and 4 destroyers, leaves Alexandria about 1600/8. (C.in C. Med. 2022/8, recd. 1627/10).

Greece. Urging assistance by air to defend Athens against Italians, otherwise Greeks may be discouraged and crumble up. (N.A.Athens, 1201/9).

East Indies.

SHROPSHIRE. My 1124/2. Temporarily attached to Red Sea Force. (C.in C.E.I. 0302Z/9).

Raider. Report. GURNA reported suspicious vessel 01.40 N, 74.00 E. at 1135Z/9. Cancelled message 1356Z. Cancellation was genuine. (C.in C.E.I. 1456Z/9).

A.P.3. Amending N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1530/6 (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0828Z/9).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.1.0.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

French Trade	Suggesting diplomatic action to request U.S. to restrict trade with French West Indies. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1231/9 to Admty)
SAGUENAY MARGAREE	Desired to sail SAGUENAY independently for U.K. as soon as possible after completion of docking on about 14/10. When SAGUENAY's programme is known intend to ask Admiralty to sail MARGAREE to cross SAGUENAY in Western Approaches. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1841/5

MOST SECRET.

9.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLAUS SCHOEN — Vice-Consul, Horta, indicates may sail during night 8-9/10. (F.O.C.N.A. 0649/9, to AUSTRALIA, SHEFFIELD and MORETON Bay). Further report indicates likelihood of early sailing. Positions in harbour. (Payal, Horta, 1145/9 F.O.C.N.A. to ships in N.A. Station, 2138/9.)

ERLANGEN. — Outside Yokohama 27/9, not since heard of - see China Station. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 1046 2/9).

ARALIENN } REICHENFELS } KUTAISLAND } — Kobe 9/10. Believed sailed. Expect further report. (Capt. O.S., Singapore 0114/10).

KHAKA — Left in ballast for Russia. (Galatz 1011/19)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

SI KIANG — Left 9/10 for Haiphong. (N.C.S.O. Saigon, 07572/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.10.1940.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CONFIELD (torpedoed 8/10).

British, 4956 tons. Needs immediate assistance (C.in C. W.A. 1037/9) 56.56 N., 10° W. Fore part under water. 5 crew still on board. Consider no chance of salvage, ship gradually settling. Weather details. (WESTON, 1210/9). OTTAWA to assist (C.in C. W.A. 1213) Cancel my 0950/9. SALVONIA and SEAMAN to assist CONFIELD in 56.48 N., 10.17 W. at 1037 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1138/9). Received from Sullom Voe at 1248/9. Otan from A/C X 201 Sqdn., CONFIELD - 549 5 survivors, 525, 56.48 N., 10.17 W. 0850. (Scapa W/T, 1315/9). SALVONIA proceeding, easy speed, strong N.W. gale, SEAMAN returning Campbeltown, engine defect. (SALVONIA, 1230/9). Your 1230, return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1525/9). Taken off 5 survivors. Captain reports torpedoed at 2030/8. 35 took to boats. Ship settling, no change of salvage. Intend sinking her, am rejoining convoy. (WESTON, 1330/9 C.in C. W.A., 1459/9). My 1037/9 CONFIELD was torpedoed in this position at 2030/8. (C.in C. W.A. 1617/9).

GRAIGWEN — Torpedoed and sunk 2110/9. (see 10/10)

ZAINIS GOURAMIS — " " " "

DELPHIN — Torpedoed 2110/9. (see 10/10).

Have lost touch with enemy submarine submerged enemy's last position was 50° N. 8° W. 3755. Present visibility towards the surface is 2 miles, submarine turning. 1345/9 1400.

Submarines Reported.

0808, 0043, 0043 — 58.04 N., 17° W., say 100' W.N.W. of Rockall, indefinite position (D.S. 400-

1024. — 52.30 N., 17°-19° W., say 300' W. of Loup Head, indefinite position (D.S. 400)

/ 1440 .....

MOST SECRET.

9.10.1940.
Wednesday

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

1440. Aircraft report, submerged submarine, 56.35 N., 7.05 W., course 360. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1510/9, C.in C. W.A., 1531/9). HORNPIPE, SALVIA and NASTURTIUM proceeding. (WESTERN ISLES, 1736/9)

1550. D.F. bearing indicate U-boat in 38° N., 14° W., to 16° W., may be shadowing you. (C.in C. W.A. to ENCHANTRESS for Commodore (S.C.6), 1550/9).

2040. D.F. at 2040, unknown enemy unit, probably U/B, 56.45 N., 10° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 2117/9).

Estimated U/B dispositions. Italian: No information
German: 2 well west of 20degs. W. of which 1 is probably North of 56 degs. 30' N. and the other South of 53 degs.N.
1 about 52 degs. 30' N. 17 degs. - 19 degs. W. at 1024/9.
1 about 58degs. N. 17 degs. W. at 0043/9.
1 North of 55 degs. and East of 11 degs. W. 1 about 100-150 miles Westward of Finisterre. (D.D.I.C. 1546/9.)

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

2nd Towns Flotilla

BRIGHTON was delayed today by defects. The remaining four destroyers of the 2nd Towns Flotilla sailed this morning from Belfast for Plymouth.

Dover Shelled

Franzelle battery fired 20 shells at Dover this evening. ALERT, which was straddles, is considered by V.A.Dover to have been the cause of the shelling. No "aval damage occurred.

2nd Town Flotilla

The Town class destroyer ST MARYS was holed by a tug when clearing the Wharf at Belfast about 1200/10.

A/S Vessels

C. in C., Home Fleet again urges that all available A/S ships should be employed on A/S rather than anti-invasion duties. He is convinced that one of the main causes of our lack of success in counter-attacking U-boats is lack of practice by our A/S vessels with a submarine.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command last night attacked Calais, Le Havre, Flushing and docks at Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

Owing to adverse weather Blenheims carried out no operations today.

Coastal Command last night attacked shipping at Boulogne. One of two Swordfish dropped bombs on Dunkirk docks. Both aircraft reported great activity at Cap Gris Nez.

The harbour and destroyers at Brest were attacked by 6 Naval Albacores attached to Coastal Command, it is thought that one destroyer received a direct hit and another two hits, and that oil tanks, hangers, and workshops were hit.

Late this evening aircarft of Coastal Command successfully bombed the docks at Le Havre and den Helder, also shipping at Lorient, scoring hits on destroyers, buildings workshops and stores.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Lee on Solent Aerodrome is in Service again (See 8/10) St. Merryn Aerodrome was reported serviceable this afternoon (See 9/10)

Dover was bombed three times today, but no damage to naval property occurred.

Very slight naval damage was done at Chatham this morning and again this afternoor

Mining

Enemy Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night from Montrose to the Thames Estuary.

Blyth was closed this morning for a few hours. Milford Haven and Tyne were closed this evening. Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 2145 today after being open a few hours.

Further mines were cut and detonated today in the enemy minefield off the south Goodwins.

A.P.Vessel GIRL MARY patrolling Oxsars boom was sunk by explosion at 1635 today.

M.V. TILL a straggler from Convoy FS 4 was damaged this evening in the Thames Estuary, either by a mine or near miss bomb.

British Mining

Five Hampdens last night laid mines in the Lorient area.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

FOUGUEUX (French destroyer) escorting the French merchant vessels CEMS and S.S. ANTONIO passed Gibraltar from west to east at 1140 today; FOUGUEX returned this afternoon, escorting SS FIREZ from east to west.

R.A.F. tonight attacked shipping and pierhead warehouses at Benghazi. Direct hits were scored on 3 ships.

A Blenheim co-operated with Naval and Military forces in operations against mechanised transport concentrations in the Sidi Barrani area.

C. in C., Med. reports the following operations were carried out by units detached.

Operations by Submarines

15/8 OSIRIS sank a transport about 3000tons in Straits of Otranto. 25/9 TRUANT sank a ship of about 3000 tons off Naples. 28/9 PANDORA sank a ship of 800 tons off Benghazi.

Operations by F.A.A.

Operations by Swordfish aircraft temporarily working from R.A.F. shore base. 21/9 three small ships were attacked near Bardia with doubtful results. 26/9 one F.A.A. aircraft obtained near misses with bombs on ships in Derna. Two torpedo bombing aircraft failed to reach targets at Derna owing to navigational difficulties and extreme range. 29/9 two Swordfish attacked with torpedoes an enemy convoy consisting of two ships, west of Tobruk. Two explosions were seen, followe by a column of smoke from one of the ships.

East Indies

Blenheims attacked targets at Assab today successfully.

MOST SECRET.

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/10. (D.C. 0212/10). At 1400/10. (D.C. 1412/10).

Nore Command. Air R/C. unsatisfactory. Keep steam for half hours notice till 0900. (C.in C. Nore 0519/10).

Policy.

Your 1500/8. Difficult situation immediately arises if submarine dives during the time that our ship is endeavouring to pass this signal. The probability of getting it through quickly after first making contact is remote. It therefore seems advisable to explain the situation politely to Vichy Government pointing out that if a submarine believed to be French dives while at a distance from one of our ships it must inevitably be regarded as hostile.
(C.in C. Nore 0932/10 to Adty.)

Efficiency of A/S Escort Ships

ENCHANTRESS 0106/10 and 0108/10. I am convinced that one of the main causes of our lack of success in counter-attacking U-Boats is the low A/S efficiency of the escorting ships which is an inevitable result of their not being given frequent opportunity for practice with a Submarine.

I have been informed by the C.O. of one of the submarines acting as Target Ship at Scapa that the first attempts of various ships carrying out A/S hunting after long periods without such opportunity have from his point of view been contemptible but that efficiency is quickly resotred with practice.

My investigation into the recent damage sustained by FIJI reveals that the only Destroyer sent to attack the U-Boat, namely ANTELOPE, had not carried out an A/S exercise with a submarine since the 16th October 1939 and that in the interim her complete A/S staff had changed.

Unless steps are taken to remedy this situation we cannot expect to avoid heavy losses but the first step is of course to provide the responsible Officers with sufficient escorting ships to enable a proportion of them to carry out A/S exercises. This causes me to re-affirm my opinion that all our available A/S Ships should be employed on A/S rather than anti-invasion duties. (C.in C. H.F. 1406/10 to Adty.)

/ I am .....

MOST SECRET.

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy (Continued)

I am in full agreement with the views expressed by C.in C. Home Fleet in his 1406/10. As regards ANTELOPE my records show that she carried out an A/S exercise with a S/M on 27th March shortly before being detached from my command on 16th April.
(C. in C. W.A. 2307/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

FURIOUS
ARGUS

120. Your 1661/8. It is desirable to relieve FURIOUS from Deck Landing Trials as the ship is long overdue for refit and any additional steaming is likely to prejudice her operational value. Concur in the employment of ARGUS for Deck Landing Trials at Scapa but presume this will not materialise until after the duty referred to in your 1931/4/10.
(C.in C. H.F. 1501/10 to Adty.)

Convoys

For N.C.S.Os. Commodores of Convoys and Masters are to be warned that, unless required to do so by the Examination or Pilot Vessel, ships should not remain stopped in a Prohibited Anchorage or Dangerous Area in the entrance to any U.K. Port.
(D.T.D. 1653/10 to A.I.C.

DAGGER
Patrols

Need not be at sea when DELUGE is three.
(C.in C. Nore 1750/10 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

New Recognition.

Your 1321/4. Admiralty cannot concur in these proposals without prior consideration of their effects on Naval air operations, which include night formation flying. There are also technical factors peculiar to Fleet Air Arm to consider. Air Ministry letter quoted does not mention Naval aircraft notwithstanding that six Fleet Air Arm Squadrons are operating from shore bases in United Kingdom besides those in H.M. Ships. Air Ministry Signal A.256 of 10th September was not repeated Admiralty. Naval Staff does not appear to have been associated with origin of these proposals and only correspondence on subject yet traced is in a stores supply context. Consider matter should be discussed at very early meeting of Inter Service Recognition Committee.
(5th S.L. 2036/10 to Air Min.).

/ FIJI .....

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy. (Continued)

FIJI	Is to form part of 10th C.S. (D.O.D. H. 1012/10 to C.in C. H.F.)
NAPIER) H-class) Destroyers)	Will form 7th Flotilla on commissioning. (D.O.D.H 1630/10).

Movements.

KING GEORGE V.	Due to leave Tyne 1630/17 for Firth of Forth. ETA about 0100/18. To enter basin at Rosyth 1700/18. Precautions against Mines. (V.C.N.S. 0215/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).
HORNPIPE) SALVIA) NASTURTIUM)	My 1735/9. Returned to harbour. (WESTERN ISLES 0215/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).
JERSEY.	Proceed to Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 1026/10 to JERSEY). Route (C.in C. Nore 2226/10)
ARETHUSA.	ETA. Scapa 1530/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1202/10 to H.Q.F.C.)
WITHERINGTON) VANSITTART)	Sailed at 0745/10 as by your 1331/9. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1205/10 to C.in C. W.A.)
Destroyer for Convoy Work	Your 1021/10 (See Submarines) BULLDOG will be detailed. (C.in C. H.F. 1219/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).
2nd TOWNS Flotilla.	My 1042/9. Sailed BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS. ETA, Plymouth 1600/11. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1230/10 to C.in C. W.A.)
Dover.	Patrols for Night 10/11 if weather moderates. (V.A. Dover 1425/10).
Western Channel.	Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1535/10).
Northern Patrol.	Northernmost Trawler Line today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/10).
CHESHIRE	Leaves Clyde P.M./13 for Area C.3. (F.O.C. N.P. 1638/10).
Orkneys	State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/10).

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Operation MEDIUM

Will be carried out at 0330/11. (D.O.D. H. 0731/10 to Air Ministry).

Your 1800/9. Re Aircraft information to C.in C. Plymouth and identification and tactics of escorting Fighters. (C.in C. W.A. 1211/10 to Air Min.).

Amendment No. 1 to Orders. (C.in C. Plymouth 1311/10 to Ships).

Request Fighter protection for 2 Cruisers and 4 Destroyers returning from operation, from daylight till 0800. (C.in C. W.A. 1944/10 to H.Q.F.C.)

Iceland. Jan Mayen Island.

FRIDTH OF NANSEN reports no sign of anyone visiting Ian Mayen. Reserve station liquidated. Met ice limit 071° 45' North 017° 30' West.

Ice prevents visit to (?Scoresby) Sound short (?visibility) heavy North East gale and drifting icebergs prevented visit to Angmassalij. Captain Ullring considers that visit to Angmassalij now onwards unsafe owing to icebergs and short daylight.

Request reply to my 1020/22/9 to Admiralty. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1050/10 to Adty.)

Operation D.N.

(Raid between Skudesnes and Lister). Intend to carry out from 1800/14 to 0730/15 with COSSACK, ZULU, SIKH, MAORI. (C.in C. H.F. 1415/10 to D.4.). Delete ZULU and substitute ASHANTI. (C.in C. H.F. 1129/11 to D.4.).

Operation D.H. (Force D)

C.in C. H.F. 1013/9. Amend as to delivery groups. (B.C.1. 1731/10 to Adty.)

War Office Exercise

Probably beginning 14/10 War Office wishes carry out exercise on lines of WHISKY and BUSTER. Request you co-operate as necessary. (A.C.N.S. H. 1830/10)to C.in C. W.A.)

/ Dover shelled .....

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued).

Operations

Dover shelled. Between 1824 and 1845, 20 shells fired from Batteries at Framzelle. 13 fell in harbour, 3 in Town, and rest outside harbour. ALBERT was straddled. No naval casualties or damage. (V.A. Dover 1951/10 to Adty.).

Operation P.S. EREBUS Will be carried out Night 11/12 or as soon after as weather permits, by EREBUS and spotting Aircraft, 3 Destroyers of 21st D.F. as Escort, and Tug LADY BRASSEY. Bombardment of Dunkirk Dock area. Zero Time 0030/12. Operation orders. (C.in C. Nore 2124/10).

Submarines

TRIDENT To leave Patrol after dark 13/10 and proceed to pass within 30 miles of Ushant. (Capt. S. 2 S/M 1006/10 to TRIDENT).

CLYDE V.A.S. 2147/9 not to Admiralty and V.A.S. 2127/8. WHITE BEAR is not available. Request Home Fleet Destroyer may be detailed observing that it is not considered desirable to include CLYDE in a slow coastal convoy which will be leaving Methil on Saturday 12th October. (C.in C. Rosyth 1021/10 to C.in C. H.F.).

TALISMAN Intend sail from Clyde, escorted by CUTTY SARK, at 0700/12 to 270° Bishops Rock 10 miles. (S. 2. 1459/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

CLYDE My 2127/8. Leave Dundee P.M./12 escorted by BULLDOG to Cape Wrath. Route thence. Leave Patrol sunset 30/10, E.T.A. Falmouth 0800/4/11. (V.A.S. 1656/10 to S.9.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/11. (V.A.S. 1702/10).

UPRIGHT. In Area D. 4. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1737/10)

Bombing Information My 1126/2. Havre twice and Walvemsoord. (V.A.S. 1836/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.10.1940.
Thursday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command. Intelligence Summary No. 472. Summary of Operations etc. (H.Q.B.C. 1831/10).

Attack on destroyers at Brest — By 6 Albacores attached to Coastal Command. In the face of intense Flak barrage and ring of searchlights 30/250 lbs GP bombs and 40 incendiaries were dropped in target area. Estimated 1 hit on 1 destroyer 2 on another destroyer with HE and incendiaries on Naval school and workshops adjoining seaplane station. Incendiaries fell on oil tanks to West and South of Naval school.
Aircraft A - overdue action taken at 0220

Had a submarine been on the surface it would have been seen from 3 - 5 miles looking up moon. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 0323/10).

Air R.C. Patrols — Unsatisfactory (C.in C. Nore 0537/10). S.A.1 N. and S.A. 2 N. cancelled owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 0802/10) W 1 cancelled. R.C. of Norwegian Coast 60° N. to Namsos (C.in C. Rosyth 2200/10).

R.N.A.S. aerodromes — Lee on Solent now serviceable. St. Merryn unserviceable (Air Min. 1025/10). St.Merryn now serviceable (D.N.A.D. 1633/10).

Rescue work. — All A/P vessels and warships to be constantly alert and ready to carry out rescue work (A.C.N.S. (H) 1238/10).

Convoys — 3 Hurricanes patrolling over convoys "Clock, Rusty, Draga, Lucca" until dark (C.in C. Rosyth 1814/10).

C. in C. H.F. has requested that as 808 Squadron has had to be withdrawn from Wick area, a squadron or half squadron of Fighters may be moved from Rosyth area to Wick area. (5th S.L. 2044/10 to Air Min.).

Enemy Air Activity.

JERSEY — Shadowed by one aircraft in 53° 24' N. 0° 40' W. (JERSEY 1003/10).

St. Merryn. — Asking for confirmation whether Dornier which crashed in sea off Seaton was shot down by guns at St. Merryn (St. Merryn 1155/10).

/ ALDERNEY QUEEN....

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

ALDERNEY QUEEN. Bombed and machine gunned. Sunk. 1800/9, no casualties. By twin engined monoplane. 51° 38½' N. 5° 23½' W. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1215/10).

Chatham. Damage caused in raid about 0500/10. (Supt. C.E. 1550/10) Damage caused in raid this afternoon (Supt. C.E. 1820/10).

Portland. Air raid damage about 2100/9 (O.C.W. Portland 1600/10).

Enemy Air Activity.

Dover. At 1053/10 enemy aircraft dropped one bomb in harbour, twb in sea outside harbour and two near Castle. No damage or casualties. At about 1545 abouttwelve bombs dropped. One in sea outside harbour, remainder in town and outskirts or on military ground. One sergeant marines attached military killed. One military and one civilian wounded. No damage naval property.
(V.A. Dover 1757/10).

At about 1820 three bombs fell near castle (V.A. Dover 1951/10)

Mining.

Blyth. Closed. Suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0705/10 to Adty.). Expect re-open port at about 1400 (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0916/10 to Adty.). Port now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1443/10 to Adty.).

B.S.40 Operation postponed 24 hours. (TEVIOT BANK 0714/10 to Adty.)

Tees } My 2115/9. Expect to open port by 1730/10.
Hartlepool } (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1042/10. Ports open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1615/10 to Adty.). Ports closed owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2145/10 to Adty.).

/ Dover .....

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Continued)

Dover.	My 1145/8. South Goodwin to number 4 buoy swept one lap by three trawlers not more than 10 per cent. Cut one mine one cable 300 degrees from 4 buoy and two sweeps parted by explosive cutter in same position. Another mine detonated in sweep one cable 208 degrees from 4 buoy. Channel not considered clear. Sweeping stopped by weather. Intend to continue sweeping p.m. today, and a.m. to-morrow Friday as tide and weather permit. (V.A. Dover 1139/10 to C.in C. Nore).
Tyne.	Closed by enemy Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2013/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).
TILL.	British Motor Vessel, 367 tons. Mined at 2010 when shifting billet in 51° 36.8'N. 1° 12.6' E. Afloat but leaking slowly. Crew in CORNWOOD for night. Request Tug by daylight. (BLACK SWAN 2140/10 to C.in C. Nore) 2 Tugs from Southend being sent now (C.in C. Nore 2329/10 to BLACK SWAN).
Milford Haven.	Port closed. Suspected Magnetic Mines. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2142/10 to Adty.).
GIRL MARY.	At 1635/10 auxiliary patrol vessel GIRL MARY patrolling Oxcars boom sank in four minutes after explosion under the stern in position 255 degrees Inchcolm Monestery 4 cables in 7 fathoms. Vessel was all wood 51 feet long 16 feet beam drawing 6 feet, diesel engines, steaming 7 knots, had been D/G ranged on 14/9 and found safe in 3 fathoms, both polarities. Explosion was loud followed by column of water dirty grey in the centre and clean outside 50-60 feet high, and about 20-30 feet in diameter. Two men were lost, Skipper dangerously wounded and four others including Commanding Officer saved. (C.in C. Rosyth 2307/11 to Adty.).

/Cherbourg .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Continued).

Cherbourg.	Preliminary Photographic R/C on 9/10. (D.D.I.C. 1200/10 to C.in C. W.A.).
TIRPITZ.	At 1100/10 had left Floating Dock in Scheerhafen at Wilhelmshaven. (P.I.U. 1840/10 to N.I.D.).
Bordeaux) La Rochelle)	U-Boats and Shipping at 1110/10. (P.I.U. 1915/10 to N.I.D.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ST. MARY'S — Holed by Tug when leaving Wharf. Temporary repairs being made. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1300/10 to C. in C., W.A.)

CLAN CAMPBELL — Boiler defects at Durban (See East Indies)

ACTIVE — 2 frames crippled in bottom fore magazine. Plates in vicinity buckled and causing bad leakage. Request return to Clyde. (ACTIVE, 1550/10) Approved (C. in C., W.A., 2151/10)

VERSATILE — Degaussing unsatisfactory. Temporary repairs being done to reach refitting post. (N.O.I.C., Londonderry, 1605/10)

ANADARA
STRINDA — Tankers, damaged. A/S Trawler to escort to Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A., 1837/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
HX.77	Meet. (C. in C., W.A., to WESTON, GARDENIA, SHIKARI etc., 0120/10) 23 hours late. (C. in C., W.A., 1450/10 to SHIKARI etc., and 1440/10 to WESTON)
SC.6	To alter coure to avoid U-Boat (C. in C., W.A., 1130/10) Aircraft reports position at 1100/10. (C. in C., W.A., 1250/10) Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1240/10) 3 ships torpedoed (See U-Boat Campaign) Am reforming about 1600, propose detaching WINCHELSEA to Liverpool to land survivors and repair A/S (ENCHANTRESS 1121/10)
WN.23	Admty. 1933/9. Concur. Propose WN 23 should be first 7 knot convoy. (C. in C., W.A. 2010/10)
OL.8 OL.9	My 1950/12/9. Intend OL convoys shall run on a 6 day cycle- dates. (C. in C., W.A., 2020/10)
SC.8	SANDWICH escort delayed by gales. (C. in C., W.A., 1507/10)
EN .	Admty. 1933/9. No reason why all EN convoys should not include 7 knot ships. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1247/10)
HX.	Onward route P (Y), typing error, correction, (D.T.D., 2050/10)
HX.78	Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 2052/10)
HX.81	Route (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1210/10)
HX.79	Route (D.T.D. 1722/10)
OA.277	List (N.C.S.O. Methil 0942/10) Escort ROCHESTER, CAMELIA (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0941/10
OB.229	Route (D.T.D. 1145/10)
HX.76 B	Arrived HELIOTROPE and HEARTSEASE escorting. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1731/10)
OB.225	SHIKARI to remain in vicinity (C. in C., W.A., 2000/10)
HG.45	NEURALIA sailed in, 9/10, route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1008/10)
FN & FS	Forecast of sailings and escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth 1651/11)

/O.B. Convoys....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	**Shipping**
OB Convoys.	Experimental night formation when on broad front. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1915/10) Passed to C. in C., W.A., (D.T.D., 1535/11)
Destroyer	For convoy work. (C. in C., Rosyth 1021/10) BULLDOG detached (C. in C., H.F., 1219/10)
	Troop Convoys
W.S. 3.	Your 1422/9 and Admty 2046/7. ORONSAY has not sailed due to damage. (D.O.D. (F) 1011/10
B.A. 54.	Composition. A.C.O.S., to arrange sailing and routeing for Reykjavik. Fighter protection code word OLIVE. (D.O.D. (H) 2045/10)
W.S. 4.	To sail as 2 separate convoys A and B (dates and escort intentions) (D.O.D. (F) 2326/10)
ARUNDEL CASTLE	380 Govt. personnel, to leave Clyde for Takoradi and Capetown (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1831/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Raider

According to Master of HAXBY raider which sank his ship in 31° 30' N., 51° 30' W., on 24/4 and captured TROPIC SEA in 28° 48' S., 166° 04' W on 18/6 is as follows:- (Details) (D.D.I.C., 1912/10)

Operations Against Vichy French

KELT
DELHI
DRAGON

KELT has not made contact with Convoy M.T. DELHI will proceed Lagos. Am sending DRAGON into harbour to transfer sick French man to PRESIDENT HOUDICE and if required collect Commodore of Convoy and staff. Commodore has asked for passage in H.M. ship to Freetown. Instruct DRAGON on arrival. (DELHI to F.O.I.C.S. 0729/10)

TOUAREG

French ship TOUAREG with Vichy deportees detained at Takoradi will sail shortly for Keta with Armed guard. Passengers will be disembarked at Keta and sent to Lome. Armed guard will then take ship with crew to Duala there to be handed over to Governor of Cameroons. European crew are being given a promise of safe conduct and of repatriation to Vichy Territory if thet desire it. Future of African and Asiatic crews to be decided by free French authorities on arrival at Duala. (C. in C., S.A., 1157N/10) (See also DELHI, South Atlantic)

Dakar

982. A.T. 0027/9/7. Demobilized Reservists report that Dakar incident and recent arrests have set back several free French movements in sympathy. Local situation unchanged. (S.B.N.O., Suez, 1935/10)

French M.Vs

Special intelligence Marseilles. Admiral, Antilles, has ordered all French merchantmen bound east to keep out of sight of Canary Islands. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1147/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

RENOWN	Reverts to 12 hours notice from 1200/10. 2400 tons fuel being discharged to enable repairs to bulge to be effected. (S.O. Force H., 0946/10)
NEURALIA Lisbon	Sailed in Convoy H.G. 45, 9/10. Route (F.O.C.N.A., 1008/10) Admty.1300/2. 1093 Gibraltarian evacuees embarked, 600 remained (F.O.C.N.A., 1601/10) Route and expected time of arrival Kingston. (F.O.C.N.A 2012/10)
SHEFFIELD	Admty. 1915/9. Intend leaving Azores Patrol. 2100K/11. Estimated arrive Gibraltar 0700/14. (SHEFFIELD 2359/10) Advising re German ships at large and British ships on passage. (F.O.C.N.A., to SHEFFIELD, 1238/10)
BARHAM	Re Ammunition. (D.T.S.D., 1825/10)

South Atlantic

Suspicious Ship	Admty. 0146/8. and my 2152B/8, confirmed that PAN EUROPE was in position referred to in Admty. 0146/8 at that time. Master stated that he was stopped next day by cruiser presumably NEPTUNE in position 036° 44' S., 022° 18' E., Your 1543/8. BRITISH VISCOUNT was in position 034° 39' S., 027° 46' E., at 0930/7 with nothing insight. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 0927z/10)
DRAGON	Expect to arrive Lagos 0900/11 with Commodore and Staff. (DRAGON, 1407A/10)
DELHI	While at Lagos to contact Commander, Nigeria to discuss defence problems (C. in C., S.A. 1455N/10) To relieve DORSETSHIRE with TOUAREG at Ketah and escort to Duala. (C., in C., 2235N/10)
KENYA	After arrival of W.S. 3. at Freetown, to continue working up in vicinity, Date of return to Scapa. (D.O.D. (H) 1751/10)
CORNWALL	Required to escort W.S. 4 A from U.K. (date) (D.O.D.(F) 1913/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Tank Landings — Weights can be off loaded at Port Said and Alexandria. (A/S Alexandria, 0943/10)

Turkish Delagation — Questions on which asking for information (C. in C., Med. 1245/10)

Operations — Reports by detached units just received:-

15/8 (?9) OSIRIS sank one transport of about 3000 tons in Straits of Otranto.

25/9 TRIUMPH sank ship of about 3,000 tons off Naples.

28/9 PANDORA sank ship of 800 tons off Benghazi.

21/9 Swordfish aircraft attacked 3 small ships Bardia.

26/9 1 F.A.A. aircraft obtained near misses with bombs on ships at Derna.

29/9 2 Swordfish aircraft attacked enemy convoy 2 ships west of Tobruk.
2 explosions seen followed by column of smoke from one ship. (C. in C., Med. 1315/10)

Operation B.S. — Patrol lines for PARTHIAN, OSIRIS, PANDORA (Capt S.I. 1701/10)

Operations "Collar" "Uniform" — Names. If one disguised M.T. ship passed through, COLLAR. If 3 or more ships, UNIFORM. If ARGUS to take part, (My 2240/9 para F) prefix WHITE will be given and operation would WHITE COLLAR or WHITE UNIFORM. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 2344/10)

East Indies

CLAN CAMPBELL — At Durban. Capable only 12 knots, boiler defects. Repairs. Delay at Suez 3 to 4 days (C. in C., E.I., 1448Z/10)

CLAN MACARTHUR — Being sailed from Durban soon as possible. (date of arrival Aden) KANIMBLA will escort to 14° S., when CLAN MACARTHUR will proceed independently (C. in C., E.I., 1448Z/10)

/Native Ratings....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Native Ratings — Will only be engaged on vessels permanently in tropical waters. (D. of S.T. to C. in C., E.I., 2021/10)

MOGAMICKWA MARU — Ex GETUYO. Left Bushire 2/10 for unknown destination, movements suspicious. Ordered to be sent in (C. in C., E.I., 0802Z/10)

China

U.S. and Kamran — Your 0557/4 (proposed visit) Not desirable at present to make this request to U.S.A. (Ed. of M., to C. in C., China, 1725/10)

America & West Indies

JERVIS BAY / ESPERANCE BAY } — To be relieved from North Atlantic trade routes before winter. ESPERENCE BAY to exchange stations with MALOJA forthwith. (D.O.D. (F) 1651/10)

COMORIN / VOLTAIRE } — To be relieved from North Atlantic trade routes if opportunity offers. (D.O.D. (F) 1651/10)

Australia

Rescue Boats — Enquiries for. (D.S.V.P. to Melbourne and Wellington 1613/10)

U.S. 5. — Sailed Fremantle 8/10 (Army H.Q., Melbourne to W.O. 2233/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ANALIESE ESSBERGER) KULMERLAND)	Kobe 9/10. Believed sailed. Expect further report. (Capt C.S., Singapore, 0114/10)
WINDETOU) EUROFELD) REKUM) OSTMARK)	At large. (F.O.C.N.A., to SHEFFIELD, 1238/10)
LECH) USARAMO) BRAKE) KARNAK) JOHO PESSAO) LA PLATA) PLUH)	Preparing for sailing, Vigo. (V.A.S. to submarines on patrol, Area B. 1837/10) (D.S., 401)
OSSAG	Small tanker, was at Triest on 4/10. (D.S. 401)
REGENSBURG	Left Yokohama 27/9, not sighted since, although only 5 days' provisions (D.S. 401)
NORBURG	Arrived with 3800 tons manganese from Poti. (Galatz. 1105/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

TOURAINE (Torpedoed 7/10) — Norwegian, 5811 tons, torpedoed ay 1615/7, not yet known to have sunk. Was a straggler from O.B. 244 Convoy, outward bound from Glasgow for Sydney N.Z. Survivors picked up by DERBYSHIRE. (D.S., 401)

GRAIGWEN — British 3697 tons, torpedoed and sunk 58.11 N., 13. 57 W at 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10, 1014/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

ZANNES GOUNARIS — Greek 4407 tons, torpedoed and sunk 58.11 N 13.57 W., 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10. 1 1014/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

DELPHIN — Greek, 3816 tons, torpedoed 58.11 N., 13.57 W at 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10 1014/10) Tug to be sent (C. in C., W.A., 0311/10) ENGLISHMAN to proceed (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0343/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

Submarines Reported

2110/9 — Enemy submarine reported, 58.11 N., 13.57 W at 2110/9. (C. in C., W.A., 0323/10) (3 ships torpedoed)

1230 — 54.00 N., reliable, 16° to 18° W., unreliable. (C. in C., W.A., 1401/10)

2039 — D.F., unreliable fix, 61° N to 61° 30' N., 11° W ro 14° W., probably homeward bound. (V.A.S. 2234/10)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No Information
German : 1 in about 44° North 12° West at 1246/9, may arrive Lorient a.m. 11th.
1 in 54° North 17° West at 1210/10.
1 in about 57° 30' North 22° 30' West at 1207/9 may be proceeding E.N.E.
1 in about 56° 45' North 10° West at 2040/9 (D.D.I.C., 1333/10)

MOST SECRET

11.10.1940
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Medium"

REVENGE, escorted by 7 destroyers and 6 M.G.B's bombarded Cherbourg early this morning. NEWCASTLE. EMERALD with 4 destroyers, and CARDIFF with two destroyers acted as covering forces to the westward and eastward respectively during the operation.
R.A.F. cooperated and first started effective fires near the target area. Further fires were started by the bombardment by REVENGE and destroyers. The enemy at first apparently believed that only air attack was taking place, and intensified his Flak. Later 13.5 inch guns opened up and continued fire until the returning ships were 36,000 yards away. The enemy's firing was very accurate but none of our ships sustained damage.

2 German Trawlers sunk by M.T.Bs

About 2335 today M.T.B's 22, 31 and 32 torpedoed two German trawlers in 51° 1' N., 1° 48' E. The trawlers were probably employed in sweeping and as rescue ships for airmen, as the survivors included Air Force personnel.

Convoy C.W. 1. Shelled

Convoy C.W. 1. was shelled intermittently after passing South Goodwin, from 2032 to 2305. Approximately 128 rounds were fired from 3 or 4 batteries on the French coast.

German Destroyers in Channel

It was reported that at 2250 German destroyers (? E Boats) attacked a trawler patrol 10 miles south of St. Catherines. 5th D.F. operating between Dieppe and Havre (see 12/10) were ordered to try to intercept the enemy returning to Cherbourg.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. this evening successfully attacked shipping in Rotterdam. An aircraft on patrol dropped its bombs on Cherbourg at 2220, finding no other targets.

Last night 46 aircraft of Bomber Command successfully attacked the Channel Ports and docks at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and cooperated in Operation "Medium"
Coast defence guns were also attacked at Henneville. 21 Hampdens also attacked shipyards at Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven and Kiel, and one Wellington attacked and set fire to docks at Delfzijl. No hits were

/Claimed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity- Contd.

claimed on the TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven, but several sticks fell across the Bauhafen. Two large fire were started in the Dockyard at Kiel.

ALYNBANK was slightly damaged by near miss when HX 76A Convoy was bombed off Kinnaird Head at 1935 today. ALYNBANK continued with the convoy.

Convoy S.C. 6. was unsuccessfully attacked 25 miles south of Barra Head this morning.

SS MONKSTONE (867 tons) was damaged by near misses while at anchor off Blakeney last night.

Mining

Operation B.8. 40.

TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE laid mines in the East Coast mine barrier completing the operation at 2358/11.

R.A.F. laid 4 mines off the entrance to the Ems River this evening. 6 Hampdens laid mines last night in the Kiel area and one in ~~Flushing~~ Flensburg Fjord.
3 Swordfish laid mines off Texel and three others off Terschelling.

ZULU Damaged

ZULU was damaged by a near mine explosion today near Beamer Rock and went into Rosyth for examination.

JERSEY Damaged
AISHA Sunk

JERSEY was damaged by a near mine explosion at 1740 today, whilst proceeding for Operation P.S. A second explosion occurred 300 yards astern of JERSEY and 10 yards astern of harbour defence patrol yacht AISHA, which was taken in tow by JERSEY but sank. JERSEY returned to Sheerness. (Operation P.S. was cancelled owing to fog preventing the spotting aircraft from taking off)

THYRA II

(1088 tons) not in convoy, was mined off the Thames Estuary about noon today.

/Several....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.,

Several ports in the north of England were closed tonight on account of suspected minelaying.

A mine was detonated off Hartlepool shortly after noon, and Tees and Hartlepool were opened at 1830. Later, however, these ports and also Blyth and Seaham were closed owing to suspected minelaying. The Humber and Sunderland were closed tonight.
The Tyne was reopened early this morning after a magnetic mine had been detonated, but was closed again this evening.
Milford Haven was opened at 0936.
Westray, Firth, Orkneys was closed this morning to shipping, owing to suspected minelaying.
The minefield off South Goodwins is now considered clear as regards the Channel.
Another mine was cut a.m. today. Seven explosive cutters were found.

Operations Against Vichy French

It was reported early this morning that PRIMAUGUET left Casablanca yesterday morning fro Dakar escorting a merchant vessel loaded with torpedoes and shells for RICHELIEU and other French warships at Dakar.

BARHAM and 3 destroyers on passage from Freetown to Gibraltar with 2 transports were ordered to alter course to intercept and shadow, one destroyer remaining with the 2 transports.

AUSTRALIA was ordered to leave Gibraltar and proceed to Las Palmas; she sailed shortly before midnight 11/12 Oct. RENOWN screen by available destroyers was ordered to leave Gibraltar 0500/12 and proceed to the westward.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD who replaced AUSTRALIA on Azores Patrol on 9/10 left for Gibraltar this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterrancean

IMPERIAL was mined today off Malta and was docked with damage which it is estimated will take at least 4 months to repair. C. in C., Med. points out that it is not practicable to keep Malta clear with only one proper minesweeper, especially in winter.

6 Blenheims today attacked shipping in Tobruk harbour without success. 66 vessels believed to be M.T.B's were later seen off the harbour entrance. AUCKLAND was bombed early this morning in 15° 51' N., 41° 25' E. No damage is reported.

MOST SECRET.

11.10.1940.
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Employment of A/S vessels

I fully concur with the principle stated in the last para. of C.in C. H.F. 1406/10. Apart from destroyers the only A/S vessels in Nore Command are employed on urgent duty defending convoys against E. Boats. I am quite willing to surrender these as soon as equally efficient or better vessels can replace them. As regards destroyers the number now in Nore Command is little above that needed to compete with current operations, boiler cleaning, routine refits and the recurrent damage by enemy action. Some reduction would certainly be possible when it is decided that invasion is no longer likely.
(C.in C. Nore 1250/11.)

Administration of A/A ships ceased to be carried out from CAIRO p.m. today 11th October. Records transferred to R.A. (D).

0137/4/9. The following are proposed as the new station limits for a Western Approaches Command based on Liverpool and a Plymouth Command based on Plymouth. (D. of L.D. 7800/11).

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"

At 0200/11 (D.C. 0212/11, 0954/11).
At 1400/11 (D.C. 1419/11)

Portsmouth

Repeating C.in C. Portsmouth's 1203/8 (A.C.N.S. (T) 1234/11 to Air Min.)

Orkneys

Request for additional troops for defence of aerodromes (A.C.O.S. 1229/11).

Movements.

Nore

Night dispositions 11/12 (C.in C. Nore 0800/11).

WORCESTERSHIRE

Clyde to Reykjavik escorted by ANTHONY, AMAZON (F.O.C. N.P. 1058/11, N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2029/11) VERITY to R.V. Position. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2241/11)

JERSEY
(Operation P.S.)

Asking for fighter cover on passage Sheerness to South Goodwin. (C.in C. Nore 1130/11).

/ TALISMAN .....

MOST SECRET.

11.10.1940.
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS. Movements. (Continued)

TALISMAN	Amending 1459/10 (S.2. 1423/11)
Dover	Patrols night 11/12 (V.A. Dover 1441/11).
Orkneys	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/11).
Northern Patrol	Trawler line today (A.C.O.S. 1536/11).
BULOLO	Sail a.m./15 to Clyde thence p.m./16 for Freetown (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1540/11).
DUNEDIN	Sailed for Portsmouth (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1520/11, 2103/11).
Western Channel	Night movements (C.in C. W.A. 1705/11).
BRIGHTON	Ex U.S.A. destroyer. Requesting fighter protection Belfast to Plymouth (C.in C. W.A. 1702/11).

Operations

Forces D. F.	Arrived (C.in C. Portsmouth 0807/11). Force D. H.U. paras. 6, 7. Screen 1 MATABELE with PUNJABI. Screen 2. D.G. in SOMALI with MASHONA, ESKIMO, DUNCAN.
Destroyer Sweep Havre to Dieppe.	JACKAL, JAGUAR, JUPITER, KELVIN, KIPLING sail 1830/11 to carry out sweep along coast between Havre and Dieppe at high speed, returning to Plymouth 0800/12 (C.in C. W.A. 1147/11, C.in C. Portsmouth 1223/11, 1513/11, Capt. S.5. 1701/11).
Operation "Medium"	Description of operation carried out last night (C.in C. Portsmouth 1423/11, C.in C. W.A. 1723/11, 1809/11).
Operation P.S.	4 M.T.B's leave Felixstowe before dark to-day to report whether W buoy C.P.S.C.1006 is lit. To remain north of Calais until 0040/12 then cruise towards Cape Gris Nez. Return to Felixstowe daylight (C.in C. Nore 1210/11). Asking for fighter protection for EREBUS, CAMPBELL, VESPER, CATTISTOCK 1730/11 till dark. Code word "ADAPT" (C.in C. Nore 1246/11.). Sailing of M.T.B's 22, 31, 32, also 14 and 16 to patrol coast East of 2° 40' E. from 2230 to 0230 (BEEHIVE 1530/11). Amendment to 2124/10 (C.in C. Nore 1640/11). Cancel my 1904. EREBUS proceeding. Zero hour 0130/12 (C.in C. Nore 1954/11). (Note. C.in C. Nore 1904 cancelled the operation.)

/ Operation "Lucid" .....

MOST SECRET.

11.10.1940.
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Operation "Lucid"

EMPIRE BEAVER now at Plymouth is to be prepared in similar way as WAR BAHADUR as matter of first priority (A.C.N.S.(H) 1902/11).

Patrol B.Y.

C.in C. W.A. 1441/11.

Convoy C.W.1 shelled.

Convoy C.W. 1 shelled intermittently after passing South Goodwin from 2032 to 2305. Rounds fired approximately as follows:- Calais 33 Blanc Nez and Wissant 48 Gris Nez 47 Total 128. No damage observed or reported.
(V.A. Dover 2344/11).

E. boats

Following received from Gorlestone W/T. E.boat signal now becoming weaker suggesting increasing distance from shore. Harwich and Dovercourt confirm this.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2305/11.).

Possible E.boats reported 51° 20' N. 2°13'E. at 2034 course 315. (C.in C. Nore 2310/11 to EREBUS, Capt (D) 21st D.F., WIDGEON, PUFFIN.)

E. boats believed operating in your vicinity. (C.in C. Nore 2311/11 to MALCOLM, EGLINTON.)

Enemy destroyers in Channel.

Enemy destroyers ten miles south of St. Catherines at 2250 proceed to intercept assume they are returning to Cherbourg.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2312/11 to JACKAL).

5th D.F. operating between Dieppe and Havre have been ordered to endeavour to intercept enemy returning to Cherbourg. Unless you are in touch with enemy do not operate South of 050° N.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2320/11 to VANOC, WITCH).

German destroyers attacked trawler patrol 180° Saint Catherine's 10 miles at 2250. Forces have been detailed to attack.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2332/11.)

CHASSEURS on L R closing Saint Catherine's.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2341/11 to VANOC, WITCH).

Enemy vessel off Dungeness.

There are indications of a surface vessel due West of Lydd light float 6½ miles course West speed approximately 5 knots at 2324.
(N.O.I.C. Dover 2343/11 to FERNIE, BERKELEY).

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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

SEA WOLF SNAPPER	Orders for patrol (Capt. S S. 0921/11, A.C.O.S. 1521/11).
URSULA, UPRIGHT, UTMOST.	Adty. approval for them to proceed to Mediterranean. Request URSULA be kept back from patrol, to be prepared to sail (date). Re UPRIGHT, UTMOST. (V.A.(S) 1334/11).
TALISMAN TRIDENT	Movements (Capt. S.2 1424/11, 1744/11).
TIGRIS	Orders to leave patrol (Capt. S.2. 1431/11)
Positions and movements.	0709/12 (V.A.S. 1647/11).
Le Havre	My 1126/2 Le Havre (i.e. to be bombed) (V.A. (S) 1648/11 to submarines on patrol).

British Air Activity.

FLEUR DE LYS	Expect fighter escort of 2 Blenheims from 1700 till dark. (C.in C. Rosyth 1304/11).
Rescue work	Naval aircraft are not to be employed on rescue service, except in individual cases of special emergency (5th S.L. 1754/11).
Air Searches	12/10. (Includes R.C. of Norwegian coast Statlandet to Namsos (C.in C. Rosyth 1926/11)
St. Merryn	Serviceable (Air Min. 1100/11)
Yeovilton	Serviceable except in S.W. and N.E. winds (R.A.N.A.S. 1125/11)

Enemy Air Activity.

LATYMER bombed 2/10.	Ultimate fate unknown. Last report received as in my 1240/7 (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1515/11).
M.A. Convoy ALYNBANK	Convoy "JUMBO" attacked in 57° 35'N. 1°30'W. (Lyness W/T 1935/11). No direct hit, no casualties. ALYNBANK damaged by near miss. Slight leaks in hull aft. Request defects taken in hand on arrival with convoy 12/10 (ALYNBANK 2245/11).

/ MONKSTONE .....

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

MONKSTONE — Collier S.S. MONKSTONE whilst anchored off Blakeney night of 10th/11th was attacked by aircraft. No casualties. Damaged by near misses. Returned to Yarmouth for repairs. (C.in C. Nore 1847/11).

Mining.

TILL (mined 10/10) — My 2140/10. Possible this was a near miss bomb (BLACK SWAN 0832/11).

Tyne — Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0702/11 0917/11). Ground magnetic detonated 146° North Pier Light 700 ft. by LL at 0857/11 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0859/11, 1105/11). Port closed owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2145/11).

Tees and Hartlepool. Blyth Seaham — Mine detonated at 1142, 1 mile P.W.S.S. mine exploded in approx. 54° 39' 30" N. 1° 4' 30" W. at 1210 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1235/11) Ports of Tees and Hartlepool open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1830/11) Ports of Blyth, Seaham, Rees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2200/11, 2142/11).

Milford Haven. — Port open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0936/11)

Orkneys. — Westray Firth is closed to shipping owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.C. C.S.1105/11)

Operation H.S.40 — Fighter cover arranged. Code word "Table" (C.in C. Nore 1112/12). Asking for fighter cover for TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE Daylight/12 until arrival at Humber. (C.in C. Nore 1114/11) Operation completed (TEVIOT BANK 2356/11).

Aircraft minings. — Now ample evidence to show that enemy aircraft are dropping mines from a considerable height without parachutes, generally by night. Good look out to be kept for splashes. (C.in C. Rosyth 115/11).

Dover. — No minefield near South Goodwins. Channel now considered clear subject to possibility of delay mines coming up. Mines cut today. 7 explosive cutters found. (V.A. Dover 1314/11).

ZULU mined — At 0920/11 a mine exploded about ten yards from starboard side of ZULU 64° Beamer Rock 1.6 cables.
ZULU was rear ship of division of four and

/ was manoeuvring

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. (Continued)

ZULU mined (Contd.)	was manoeuvring to form astern of guide which was proceeding at 12 knots. Ship has been taken into Rosyth Dockyard Basin for examination. Preliminary survey indicates some machinery defects, leaks in outer bottom in way of after fuel tanks and magazines, bulkheads slightly distorted, etc. no casualties. (C.in C. N.F. 1446/11.)
Sweeping	Warning to vessels to take care to avoid damaging sweeps at night (D.M.S. 1538/11 "A" Mge. Home 87a A 2.)
WALPOLE	Mine detonated today 4 cables green 40 from WALPOLE 196° 1.6 miles East Barrow Beacon. Speed 24 knots. (C.in C. Nore 1709/11).
JERSEY (Operation P.S.)	Damaged by near mine explosion 400 yds. south of East Knot Buoy at 1740. Proceed with operation. (C.in C. Nore 1830/11 to ERIBUS, CAMPBELL, VESPER, CATTISTOCK, 2024/11 to C.in C. W.A.).
Sunk area.	Details of sweeping. One German "W" type old mine dragged in sweep (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1912/11).
Humber	Closed to navigation on account of Aircraft minelaying (F.O. Humber 2256/11).
Sunderland	Port closed. Mine reported in Inner Approach Channel. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2339/11).
THYRA II	(mined about 1200/11) Disabled in tow of tugs. Asking for cover, 1430-1800/11. Position at 1400 51° 34' N. 1° 8' E. proceeding to Southend 3½ knots (C.in C. Nore 1420/11).
AISHA sunk.	When JERSEY was in position 2 cables South of East Knob buoy speed 22 knots with yacht AISHA speed 8 knots 300 yards fine on port bow, an explosion occurred this afternoon 30 to 40 yards on port side abreast B gun of JERSEY. JERSEY turned 180 degrees followed by AISHA. A second explosion occurred off Knob buoy 300 yards astern of JERSEY and 10 yards astern of AISHA. JERSEY took AISHA in tow but yacht subsequently sank in approx. 082° 7 cables from East Onze buoy. Some damage to JERSEY, two minor casualties in AISHA. C.W. 14 consisting of 12 merchant vessels escorted by two destroyers, eight trawlers, six barrage balloon vessels and four motor launches passed over this position two hours previously. AISHA has diesel engines and was going full speed. Two engines each 12 cylinder, 750 revs. (C.in C. Nore 2154/11.).

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

Following from Unst. One medium fast vessel bearing 128 degrees distance 23.5 miles course and speed 056 degrees 28 knots.
(A.C.O.S. 0015/11 to SNAPPER).

Enemy Searchlights. — Report has been received from SPEEDWELL that several Officers and reliable Ratings in Minesweepers of Force 'B' (operation LUCID) observed enemy search lights at Calais and Boulogne sweeping the surface of the water during R.A.F. attacks on these ports the night 7/8 October. It is more usual practice for searchlights to be directed upwards during air attack. (C.in C. Nore 1054/11).

Auxiliary Cruiser and Minesweepers — At 1015 one enemy auxiliary cruiser was in 045° 15' N. 001° 50' W. course N.W. and at 1115 unknown number of mine sweepers were in 047° 40' N. 003° 55' W. course south.
(F.O. Submarine 1507/11 to Submarines on patrol).

Deauville — GI/424. Reference My GI/423 T.O.O. 2015/11. The 17 coasters reported in Deauville are seen on closer examination to be North Atlantic fishing Schooners and therefore without invasion significance. (P.I.U. Wembley 2216/11.)

Bergen — P.R.U. sortie 8/10 (P.I.U. 0058/11).

M.V's off Dieppe and Boulogne. — 10 merchant vessels 8 miles off Dieppe course W.S.W. at 1200. 25 merchant vessels off Boulogne course S. at 1220 (F.O. S/M's 1413/11, Capt. S.S. 1433/11 to UPRIGHT, D.D.I.C. 1439/11)

Norwegian coast N.C. — Nothing sighted except the merchant vessels described in Wick 02.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1418/11).

Channel Ports — P.R.U. sorties 11/10 (P.I.U. 2015/11).

Convoys — Re German convoys for Norway. Assembly. Route. (N.A. Stockholm 1732/11).

Kirkenes Ore trade — Report it is to be developed as naval and submarine base. German vessels which were withdrawn from Swedish ore trade in August are now reported to be gradually reappearing in this service at Luleå (N.A. Stockholm 1217/11).

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ACTIVE (damaged 10/11). Your 1550/10 approved to return to Clyde (C.in C. W.A. 2151/10).

IMPERIAL. See Mediterranean.

GLENIFFER KING NEPTUNE. U.K. to Capetown due 7/10 not arrived (Capetown 1605 B/11).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys	Shipping.
H.X. 76	Position (C.in C. W.A. 0031/11).
H.X. 76 A.	ALYNBANK to remain with until meeting O.A. 228. (L.A.D. H.F., 1546/11)
S.L. 48 A.	Arrived 2300/10. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0009/11).
F.S. 6.	KERMA to be diverted to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 0835/11).
O.A. 226.	To alter course (C.in C. W.A. 1300/11)
O.B. 226.	" " " "
F.N. and F.S.	Forecast of sailing and escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth 1651/11).
H.X. 77.	Sighted by U/B (C.in C. W.A. 1259/11 1600/11).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

PRIMAUGUET — Consul Tangier reports left Casablanca early 10/10 escorting French M.V. to Dakar reported loaded ammunition for RICHELIEU and French warships at Dakar. (F.O.C.N.A., 0016/11) Graded A.3. and passed to C. in C., S.A. Forces H and M (D.D.I.C., 0108/11)

BARHAM — BARHAM and 3 destroyers steer 090° (D.O.D. (F) 1710/11)

RENOWN — Have steam at 4 hours' notice. (D.O.D. (F) 1718/11)
Your 1718. RENOWN can sail 0001/12 with 1200 tons short of fuel or at 0500/12 complete with fuel. Bulge not repaired. 3 destroyers only available screen, remainder defective or escorting convoys. (S.O.Force H., 1911/11)

RENOWN AUSTRALIA — RENOWN, AUSTRALIA, with necessary screen to proceed to westward. Should be clear of harbour as soon as practicable after 0700/12. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1727/1 to Force H)
AUSTRLAIA to sail as soon as possible and proceed at 25 knots towards Las Palmas. RENOWN to sail at 0500/12 and proceed to westward on course at your discretion. (1st S.L. 2112/11 to F.O.Force H.)
Your 2112. May I be informed of the object. (S.O.Force H., 2305/11)
Your 2305/11. For RENOWN to be clear of Gibraltar in case French bomb Gibraltar as a reprisal. (1st S.L., 0046/12)

BARHAM to Intercept PRIMAUGUET — My 1710 and F.O.C.N.A., 0016/11. BARHAM and 3 destroyers to intercept PRIMAUGUET and M.V. on assumption that their speed is 10 knots and that they are proceeding by direct route. Transports and remaining destroyer proceed by route already arranged to Gibraltar. (1st S.L., 1732/11 to BARHAM)
My 1732/11. If contact not made, search to be continued to Northward until lat 31° N when course is to be set for Gibraltar keeping not less than 30 miles from the coast.
If met PRIMAUGUET to be shadowed as long as fuel endurance will allow you to reach Gibraltar.
H.M.G. are in communication with Vichy Government regarding return of PRIMAUGUET and M.V. to Casablanca and if possible it is desired that action by you should be deferred until reply.

/You will.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

BARHAM
to Intercept
PRIMAUGUET, Contd.

You will receive orders to carry out operation RELEASE or operation ARREST. If RELEASE you will take no action and proceed to Gibraltar. (1st S.L. 2113/11 to BARHAM.)

Part 2 of 2113/11.
If you received order ARREST, Inform PRIMAUGUET that discussions are in progress between H.M.G. and French Government, and until these are concluded H.M. G. cannot acquiesce in any action which alters military situation at Dakar.

Believed M.V. in company with PRIMAUGUET is transporting ammunition and torpedoes to Dakar and PRIMAUGUET is to be asked on his word of honour to confirm or deny this.
If he denies this, PRIMAUGUET and M.V. are to be released.
If PRIMAUGUET confirms that M.V. is carrying ammunition you are to inform him that the M.V. must return to Casablanca.
If PRIMAUGUET gives his word that he will escort M.V. to Casablanca accept his word and return to Gibraltar.
If not, enforce your orders using minimum force necessary and continue to escort him until relieved.
(1st S.L. 2238/11 to BARHAM)

DELHI
DRAGON

Your 2237/9. Considered necessary that either DELHI or DRAGON remain temporarily at disposal of C.S.I. to prevent any Vichy reinforcements reaching Libreville, Cruiser not detailed to return to Freetown and will be required to intercept unescorted French merchant ships to or from Dakar. (1st S.L. 0105/11 to C. in C., S.A.) Orders to DRAGON (C. in C., S.A., 1031/11)

Your 0105. Intended DELHI should remain in Duala-Libreville area. She is now proceeding to relieve DORSETSHIRE in neighbourhood of Keta and to escort TOUAREG to Duala. Also DRAGON to Freetown covering route of French merchant shipping on passage and then operating from Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1141N/11) DORSETSHIRE, Patrol area. (DORSETSHIRE, 1430/11)

AUSTRLIA

Admty. 1913/4. Details of patrol maintained. Nothing sighted. (AUSTRALIA 0935/11)

/Spears....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Spears Mission

Admty. 1959/10. Major part of Spears Mission is at Duala. Communications. (C. in C., S.A., 1059/11)

Canary Islands

Reported Admiral, Ajitilles, ordered all French M.V's bound east to keep out of sight of Canary Islands. (D.D.I.C.,1123/11)

WESTERNLAND Spears-Williams Mission

Requesting information of intended movement. (C. in C., S.A., 1105/11)
Your1105N/11 and my 1510Z/11. WESTERNLAND did berth alongside. Had only enough coal to reach Freetown. Mission believed going to Brazzaville. (CORNWALL to C. in C., S.A. 1630Z/11)
Your 1105/11. Spears made no mention of this proposal. Intend movements to be Williams Section now in WESTERNLAND to Brazzaville and Spears Section now at Duala to Brazzaville by (overland?) route. Spears himself accompanying de Gaulle. (C.S.I., 1821/11 to Admty.)
Intend WESTERNLAND shall return to Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 2015/11 ro Consul-General, Leopoldville)

Libreville Patrol

Admty. 0105/11 and my 0934/11. DEVONSHIRE to establish patrol off Libreville 13/10. (details) COMMANDANT DOMINE and PRESIDENT HOUDUCE will commence patrol off Libreville and Port Gentil 15/10, when DEVONSHIRE must leave to refuel Freetown. (C.S.I., 1841/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

Bathurst

Re defences of. (G.O.C., West Africa, to W.O. 1855/11)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Lisbon — My 1452/8. PORTUGAL and VAE VICTIS sailed for Gibraltar a.m./9. THYS VILLE still held by Portuguese (Lisbon, 1045/11).

ORAO Intercepted — Your 0853/10. ORAO - Jugoslav, 5135 tons - bound for Lisbon from Rio de Janeiro stopped in position 035° 40' N. 012° 15' W. at 2300/11 and sent into Gibraltar with boarding party speed 7 knots she is rather short of coal. (HOTSPUR, 2305/11 to F.O.C. N.A.)

NEURALIA — My 1601/10 (numbers embarked). Colonial authority now reports only 400 remaining. (F.O.C. N.A. 1625/11).

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE — Your 1523/25. Requires 4 days at 24 hours notice for inspection of cylinders. Request this on her return to Simonstown a.m./12. N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1045 B/11).

CERES. — Arrived escorting K.D.1. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1854 Z/11).

COLONIAL — Portuguese, F.309 tons. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. S.A. to FAULKNOR 1037 N/11).

ENTERPRISE — Request be retained on station after return of HAWKINS for minimum of 14 days. (Cdre., S.A.D., 1212 Z/5, received 1817/11).

CLEMIFFER. KING NEPTUNE. — Both from U.K. due Capetown 7/10 not arrived. (Capetown 1605 B/11).

WIFUNEN — S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1903/1. S.S. WIFUNEN was boarded at sea 4/10 and thoroughly searched. Nothing suspicious found. Log showed ship was aground near Martin Garcia from 0930/25 to 0245 27/9. Five men signed on in Montevideo (corrupt groups). (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 0910/11).

Mediterranean.

Malta. — My 2344/10. Asking if can arrange for transport of personnel from Egypt in H.M. Ships with "Collar" or "Uniform", and whether M.T. can be transported. 1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 0041/11) Reply, Yes. (C.in C. Med., 1726/11).

M.E.6. — Position of Fleet and course. (C.in C. Med., to N.O.I.C. Malta 1105/11).

/ IMPERIAL .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Continued)

IMPERIAL mined — IMPERIAL struck mine 15 m. S. of Delimara in 150 fathoms. Stresses recent request for mine sweepers. (C.in C. Med., 1156/11). Details of damage (N.O.I.C. Malta 1915/11).

Enemy Intelligence — Received by Athens. Italian cargo ship passed Corfu S.E. 0545/10 G.M.T. Six to ten ships unspecified passed Anti-Paxi Island N., 0430/W. G.M.T. (C.O.I.S., to Med. Fleet, 1230/11).

Aircraft reports 1 capital ship and 2 merchant ships 360° Benghazi Harbour at 1200/11. (Capt. S.1 to RORQUAL 1510/11) Vessel is not capital ship, type unknown (Capt. S.1, to RORQUAL 2156/11).

RORQUAL — To leave patrol at 2300/13. Route. (Capt. S.1, 1701/11).

Convoy M.F. 4. — Route. (N.O.I.C. Malta, to Submarines on patrol, 1709/11).

Defence Mining. — Your 1959/3 and Admty. 1803/4. Re supply of mines. Instructions for installing defence by oil fire can also be sent. (D.of L.D. toN.O.I.C. Malta 1821/11).

Convoy A.3.4. — Date of assembly and route. 6 ships. 7th C.S. may be detached to provide cover. (C.in C. Med. 2305/11).

East Indies.

Assab Raids. — Summary No.121 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 11/10. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron reconnoitred Assab for night port activities 1815, 10/11. No lights no activity seen, bombed main pier, results not observed. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron photographic reconnaissance Assab harbour and shipping 0315. 4 vessels 5000-ton seen vicinity Fatma Island. (Not new arrivals). Standing Fighter Patrol Aden 9 Gladiators 94 Squadron 0330 to 1200. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron reconnaissance Berbera - Laferug - Zeila landing grounds 1200 to 1245. No aircraft seen. 3 Blenheim 4's 203 Squadron fighter escort convoy S.W. 0330 1400.

Convoy Escort.

AUCKLAND attacked. — 3 Blenheim 4's 203 Squadron fighter escort convoy B.3.6. from 0340. Blast aircraft remaining Kamaran. 2 unidentified E.A. attacked AUCKLAND 50 miles west

/ Kamaran .....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

AUCKLAND Attacked, Contd. — Kameran 0645. Fighter escort gave chase but unable to close. No damage. 7 Vincents 8 Squadron continued punitive bombing Quteibis during day. All times G.M.T. No damage, no casulaties. (A.H.Q., Aden, recd. 0020/12) (Amended 1856/12)

U.S. 5 A
U.S. 8 — Re escorts (C. in C., E.I., 1326Z/11 to Admty.)

AUCKLAND Bombed — AUCKLAND bombed at 0640Z/11 in 15.51 N., 41. 25 E., no report of damage received. (C. in C., E.I., 1514Z/11)

Command — Admty. 0406/11 (See China) my views are embodied in para 5 (IX) of C. in C., China's 0743/9. (C. in C., E.I. 1914Z/11)

Lourenco Marques — Fourfold increase in number of Greek ships calling Lourenco Marques. Asking if trade to and from Madagascar can be treated as contraband. (C. in C., E.I., 1058Z/11)

GNAT — To be prepared for passage to Alexandria Arrangements. (C. in C., E.I., 1328Z/11)

B.N. 6½ — DEVONSHIRE, RANEE, PUNDIT, escorted by PARRAMATTA sailed 1800Z. Route and times. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 1805Z/11)

China

M. de Schompre — Message from Gen. de Gaulle, re his employment. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.R.I.N., 1509/11)

Cocos Island — Admty. 1414/7. DANAE visited early July. Suggested force for shore defence. (C. in C., China 0545/11)

Command — Requesting views on question of command may be signalled in advance of appreciation called for in A.T. 1415/26/8. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 0406/11)

Indo-China — Report from Duncan, Saigon, 10/10. Vichy influence increasing, etc., (S.O.C., Malaya 1144/11)

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10.10.1940
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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Suspicious Ship

Q.Q.Q.Q.49 34 N 35 15 W.,AMAKURA unknown ship closing me rapidly from astern, 1135/11 de G.C.K. (Valentia Radio 1138/11)

Q.Q.Q.Q.55 R 05 N 24 R 02 W. SERINGA unknown vessel closing (de G.C.K. T.O.R., 1145/10) (Lands End Radio T.O.R. 1145/10)

SERINGA reports suspicious vessel approaching her in 55 05 24 W at 1155 investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 1200/11 to CIRCASSIA)

Q.Q.Q.Q. 49 R 34 N. 35 R 15 W. AMAKURA. Unknown ship closing me rapidly from astern 1135/11. (Valentia Radio, T.O.R. 1255/1)
Note Position given above is correct position.

SERINGA reports suspicious vessel approaching her in 055° 05' N., 024° 02' W at 1135. Is this you, if not, investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 1331/11 ro RANPURA)

For SS AMAKURA only. Your 1135/11 Request further report of unknown ship. (D.D.I.C. 1624/11 to C.B.M.S. One)

Your 1331/11. My position 1600 G.M.T. 057° 08' N., 031° 17' W. Should arrive in position about noon tomorrow Saturday. (RANPURA 1640/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 1331/11. Proceed in execution of previous orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2347/11 to RANPURA)

Town Class Destroyers

To avoid congestion while fuelling at St. John's (N.F.) intend to sail available TOWN class destroyers in two groups. Expected dates. Machinery defects in ROXBOROUGH are very serious and ship is unlikely to be ready to sail before last group. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1541/11)

QUEEN ELIZABETH...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies, Contd.

QUEEN ELIZABETH — New York Press report of fitting as troop ship. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1135/11)

HAZOZAKI MARU — Admty. 1352/8. Ship was released (Your 1828/8) and sailed for New York on 9/10. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1632Z/11)

CARADOC — To arrive St. Lucia and Antigua (dates) with or before U.S. ship ST LOUIS as convenient. Arrange berths mutually. Fuel from SAN ADOLFO at Antigua. Inform me if ST. LOUIS alters programme. (C. in C., A.W.I 1041/11)

Australia

Vichy Repatriations — Re repatriation of 132 French citizens of Vichy Govt. sympathy from Noumea to Indo-China. (A.C.N.B., to D. of S.T., 0228Z/11)

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

YALOVA LARISSA	Arrived with Manganese ore Poti. (Macrae, Galatz, 1132/11)
LUVSEE	Sighted off Split going N. 8/10. Expected Zelenika for bauxite after discharge of present load at Trieste. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1247/11)
HANNOVER	My 0952/12/9. 16 seamen ex-HANNOVER left San Domingo 10/10 by car for Port au Prince. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0954/11)
LUISE BORNHOFEN	My 1145/9 LUISE BORNHOFEN now at anchor and buoy between Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZAROO and breakwater 20 feet from latter. Arrived 11/10 Portuguese sloop CARVALHO ARANJO now anchored at Northern end inner harbour. (V.C. Horta, 1705/11)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGH

Ships Attacked

DELPHIN (Torpedoed 9/10) — Lost touch during night when 5 miles off and drifting towards Rockall. Searched since daylight, no success. Consider sunk. (HASTINGS, 1230/11) Search continuing with tugs. Consider definitely sunk. (H (HASTINGS, 1915/11)

EMMA BAKKE — Norwegian 4721 ons. Torpedoed 57.02 N., 17.24 W., (Lyness W/T, 2000/11) SALVONIA and ENGLISHMAN to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2123/11)

EMPIRE AUDACITY — British 5725 tons. Attacked 57.12 N., 17.03 W., 2240/11 (Valentia Radio, 2245/11)

Submarines Reported

0029 — D.F., U-Boat between 58° and 59° N., 15° and 19° W., at 0029/11 (C. in C., W.A., 0203/11)

1205 — Submarine reported by RUNA GAL look out, conning tower awash, proceeding N., 115. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, from WESTERN ISLES/11)

1220 — D.F. fix in approx 56°-57° N., 20° W., at 1220 indicates U/B has sighted HX 77. (C. in C., W.A., 1259/11) Destroyers to sweep (C. in C., W.A., 1600/11)

1330 — Sunderland reports submarine diving 020° Sule Skerry 16 at 1330. PUNJABI investigatin (MATEBELE, 1359/11 to A.C.O.S.) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1528/11) Amend position to 58.21 N 4.14 W., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1630/11)

SOMALI, DUNCAN, ESKIMO, continuing search for U-Boat until further orders. Aircraft from Hatston will be working towards Fair Island Channel on assumption U-Boat is homeward bound. Be prepared to act on observations from Fair Island and Sunborough A.E.S. which will be passed to you. MATEBEL, PUNJABI, rejoin Oiler MONTENOL. (R.A.D. H.F., 1735/11 to D.6) Unless in contact return Scapa by noon/12 (R.A.D. H.F., to D.6, 2215/11)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 9 in Bordeaux on 10th no information of those at sea.

German: 8 in Lorient on 9th, and 1 may arrive today.
1 in about 50° N and West of 20° W.
1 in vicinity of 57° N., 20° W at 1221/11.
1 in Vicinity of Rockall.
1 probably N. of 56° N and East of 11° W
1 in about 60° N., 11° W., at 2040/10, homewards.
(D.D.I.C. 1343/11)

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Sweep by 5th D.F. E. boats engaged.

JACKAL, JAGUAR, JUPITER, KELVIN and KIPLING last night carried out a sweep off the French coast. Early this morning while returning to Plymouth JACKAL, which was leading, engaged 2 enemy small craft, about 30 miles North of Cherbourg, but soon lost contact. It appears probable that enemy E. boats were operating last night at points in the western part of the Channel.
CLYDE sailed from Dundee today for patrol in the Atlantic between 20° W. and 25° W.

British Air Activity.

Adverse weather caused a number of operations last night by Bomber Command to be cancelled. However, aircraft attacked Channel ports and targets at Wilhelmshaven, Kiel, Bremerhaven and Wesermunde. Although bursts were seen in the target areas and fires and explosions were caused, no outstanding results were observed.
Coastal Command aircraft last night successfully bombed shipping and dry docks at Rotterdam, targets at the Hook and Cherbourg.
Seven merchant vessels were attacked this morning 51 miles N.W. of Trondheim, but detailed results were not observed. A merchant vessel was machine gunned 39 miles 255° from Namsos.

Enemy Air Activity.

Damage was done at Thames Ammunition Works at Erith this evening.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy E.boat last night is suspected off Harwich and to the northward.
Several mines were cut or exploded off Harwich today.
H.M.T. RESOLVO was damaged by a heavy under water explosion in the Thames Approaches at 2030 today and was beached.
EREBUS reports 5 explosions in the Thames Approaches this evening. The first explosion was a mine, but the other four, which were close together may have been caused by mines or bombs.

State of Ports

Humber. Opened 0910. Closed 2153.
Tees, Hartlepool. Opened 1614.
Seaham. Closed 1256.
Blyth. Closed 1256. Opened 1405.
Sunderland. Closed 1256. Opened 1540.

R.A.F. minelaying.

R.A.F. last night laid mines off Kiel and in the Elbe, and in and near Hubert Cat.

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Operations against Vichy French.

In order to intercept shipping proceeding to Dakar the Admiralty have suggested that certain patrol lines should be instituted.

North Atlantic.

S.S. STARLING was bombed and machine gunned off Cadiz this morning.

Mediterranean.

Operation M B 6.

C.in C. Mediterranean reports that during the passage of the Fleet and Convoy M F 3 to Malta little air activity took place. Aircraft reported Italian U-boats south of Crete, and one was heavily depth charged by destroyers.
Thunderstorms prevented air raids on Malta whilst the destroyers, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA and RAMILIES were refuelling on 11/10. IMPERIAL was mined but was brought into harbour. Convoy M F 3 arrived at 1600/11, and Convoy M F 4 sailed after dark for Alexandria.
During the nights 11/10 and 12/10 AJAX was in action with enemy T.B's and reported sinking two. A Sunderland flying boat sighted 2 destroyers about 100 miles East of Malta at 0630, one of which was damaged and on fire; these were probably the T.B's reported by AJAX. The damaged destroyer, ~~of DARDO or later class~~, was sunk by ~~units of the Fleet~~, but the other destroyer escaped.

ARTIGLIERE
YORK

Air Attack on Benghazi

R.A.F. last night successfully attacked Benghazi. Shipping at Tobruk was attacked yesterday, a large ship being hit.

East Indies.

KIMBERLEY on Perim Patrol was bombed this afternoon. No damage is reported.

In view of the urgent requirements for fleet minesweepers at Malta HUNTLY and DERBY are to be sailed to the Mediterranean. There are 7 other ships in the Red Sea and Aden fitted for sweeping moored mines.

R.A.F. attacked Bardia, Derna and Tobruk today; at Tobruk bursts were seen amongst shipping in harbour.

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/12 (D.C.P.156/12).

Nore Command. Air reconnaissance unsatisfactory. Keep steam at half an hours notice till 0900/12. (C.in C. Nore 0611/12).

Policy.

BERWICK. AUSTRALIA. Your 1655/11 and 1914/9. Unless political reasons to contrary I recommend that AUSTRALIA joins Mediterranean Fleet rather than BERWICK. This would render it unnecessary to carry out the more important A and A's required if H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA remains in Home Waters. H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA should however be docked for examination of A brackets vide your 0125/6/8 also for repairs to fore peak, during which time blanking of lower deck scuttling should be carried out. The relief to home repair yard thus affected would be very advantageous. In this case I would suggest that H.M.S. BERWICK joins Force H if this is still required or alternatively carries out the duties in your 2326/10/10. Might I suggest that if in matters such as this affecting ships of my command I was consulted beforehand, I might be able to give helpful advice.
(C.in C. Home Fleet. 1825/12 to 1st S.L.)

Movements. (1).

Western Channel Patrol. My 0117. VANOC and WITCH are proceeding to 50° N. 2° W. Do not proceed East of 2° 30'W. If nothing sighted return to harbour by 0730.
(C.in C. W.A. 0139/12 to BROKE, WANDERER, BURZA, GARLAND) BURZA and GARLAND are not sailing. BROKE and WANDERER proceed when ready. (C.in C.W.A. 0209/12 to BROKE).

KING GEORGE V. C.in C. Rosyth's 1601/11. Approved. Act accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 1230/12 to C.in C. Rosyth and H.F.) Following working-up programme proposed. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1316/12 to C.in C. H.F.)
Your 1316/12. My information is that B turret is unlikely to be completed before 19th November. In view of chance of changes in war situation, what weather may be like, what destroyers will be available etc. I consider it would be better to postpone consideration of this matter for a month when surely it could be left to me.
(C.in C. H.F. 2121/12 to Admty.)
Cancel A.T.1316/12 (1st S.L. 0217/13 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (1). (Cond).

DUNEDIN. Request fighter protection 0630/12 till dark from 53° 15'N. 5° 25'W. to Portsmouth. Expected time of arrival 0700/13. (C.in C. W.A. 0329/12 to H.Q.F.C.)

CHESHIRE. Leaves Clyde 1300/13. Route to Area C3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1100/12 to CHESHIRE).

CLEVELAND. On conclusion of practices proceed with despatch to Fair Island Channel. (R.A.D. H.F. 1136/12 to CLEVELAND).

Yarmouth. Disposition of Water Taxis at 1200/12. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1150/12 to Admty.)

Nore. Dispositions for Night 12/13. (C.in C. Nore 1200/12).

Scapa. Arrivals and Departures. (A.C.O.S. 1213/12.)

Dover. Patrols for night 12/13. (V.A. Dover 1347/12

Movements.(2).

ARGUS. Your 1501/10. (Deck Landing Trials). Last paragraph confirmed. Further signal will be made as to date when Ship available. (5th S.L. 1503/12 to C.in C. H.F.)
Your 2035/11. Expected ready to sail p.m. 18/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1803/12 to Admty.

Western Channel. Movements for night 12/13. (C.in C.W.A. 1535/12 and 1945/12).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines on 12/10. (A.C.O.S.1536/12).

VERSATILE. Proceed to Tyne forthwith for refit. (C.in C. H.F. 1555/12 to VERSATILE).

Portsmouth Command. Movements for night 12/13. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/12).

Anti-Invasion Patrol. VANOC, FERNIE, BERKELEY and VOLUNTEER will be on patrol between longitude Anvil Point and Owers, entering QZS 169 at 0600/13 (C.in C. Portsmouth 1853/12 to DUNEDIN)
My 1607/12. Ships will be on patrol J.C.Wes (C.in C. Portsmouth 1857/12 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(1).

Operations PS (EREBUS). — Cancel operation PS.
Aircraft fogbound. (C.in C. Nore 0050/12 to EREBUS). Keep in South half of QZ8.170. (C.in C. Nore 0659/12 to EREBUS).
Operation PS will be carried out tonight, weather permitting. If possible, decision will be made by 1300. (C.in C. Nore 1000/12 to EREBUS).
Operation PS will not take place tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1216/12 to F.O. Harwich).

M.T.B's on Belgian Coast. — Available 70 foot M.T.B's are to operate on Belgian Coast between Nieuport and Flushing attacking any vessel seen without challenge. Report M.T.B's detailed and time of sailing. (C.in C. Nore 1216/12 to F.O. Harwich).
Owing to defects in M.T.B. 32, operation of M.T.B's is cancelled. (C.in C. Nore 1649 to Admty.)

M.T.B's sink trawlers. — M.T.B's 22, 31 and 32 arrived Dover at 0110 with 34 survivors of two German trawlers, which they had torpedoed in 51° 02' N., 1° 48' E. at about 2335/11. Trawlers probably employed sweeping and also as rescue ships from airmen as the survivors include Air Force personnel. M.T.B's were probably mistaken for 'E' boats as only one round was fired by trawlers and that only after first vessel was torpedoed. Request no announcement be made in press of the sinking of these trawlers so that their loss may be attributed by Germans to the minefield in vicinity and so as not to betray the presence of M.T.B's. If not given away this success may be repeated.
M.T.B's will sail for Felixstowe at 0600/12. (V.A. Dover 0331/12 to Admty).

Operations. (2).

Force D. — HOOD is to sail p.m/15 to give cover to Force D. If necessary, screen for FURIOUS phase 2 may be reduced to 3 destroyers. B.C.1 pass by secret hand message to BERWICK and FURIOUS. (C.in C. H.F. 1057/12 to B.C.1). Orders to SEAWOLF. See Submarines.

Straits of Dover Patrol. — M.T.B's 70, 69 and 5 will leave Dover at 2130/12 to operate between W Buoy at about 51 10'N., 2 6'E. and latitude of Boulogne, returning at daylight 13th.
(V.A. Dover 1406/12 to Admty).

Patrol Q. — Cancel Patrol tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1502/12 to D.21).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(2).(Contd.)

Iceland. Withdrawal of Walrus A/C.

Your 1654/9. The short daylight hours and uncertain weather conditions in Iceland during winter do not justify leaving Walrus Squadron there. They can be more usefully employed elsewhere. The Squadron will be fetched by ARGUS, date of whose arrival will be signalled later. Request you inform Alabaster and report estimated time required to embark Squadron as an evolution. (5th S.L. 1504/12 to F.O. Iceland).

Start Point A/S Trawler Patrol.

Patrol BY. (C.in C. W.A. 1529/12 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

ATALANTA.

Netlayer. Newhaven to Pevensey and return. Request fighter protection 0700 to 1200/13. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1718/12 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operations. (3).

Enemy off St. Catherines. (See 11/10).

VANOC take VOLUNTEER, FERNIE, BERKELEY under his orders and sail at 1830 and proceed by Q.Z.S. 111 and 169 and patrol along line of L,M and C Patrols to position 180° Anvil Point 10 miles. Return so as to reach end of Eastern Channel at 0600. Renewal of attack by enemy torpedo craft and/or E-boats on our patrol lines is possible. Patrol craft have been withdrawn except for patrol of Eastern and Western Channels. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1757/12 to VANOC).

Operation MEDIUM. Damage at Cherbourg.

Impossible to analyse damage except by very detailed examination. Compared with W.115 of 9/10 there is a reduction of one in number of T.B's in Petite Rade and of one in the Bassins. One other probably badly damaged and possibly another. Except for a few small craft Bassin Charles is empty. Not more than two M.Class minesweepers compared with seven in W.115 can be seen. Two or three E.boats are visible compared with ten. Dry docks and repair slips in Bassin Napoleon damaged. A vessel moored alongside the Gare Maritime is heavily on fire with black smoke rising. A fire is still burning from the Entrepot to the East of the inner Harbour. Colonial Infantry Barracks by outer Harbour probably severely damaged. Direct hit obtained on main Seaplane Base at Chantereyne.
(P.R.U.St. Eval 1800/12 to H. Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations. (3)(Contd.)

Operation D.N. (Skudesnes to Lister).	My 1415/10. Subject to favourable weather, operation D.N. will be advanced 24 hours, so subhead A should read 13/10. (C.in C. H.F. 1841/12 to D.4, SIKH, MAORI, ASHANTI). (Proceed tomorrow 13th, so as to pass Oxcars at 0900. (C.in C. H.F. 2155/12 to D.4).
	Submarines.
WILK.	Proceed to patrol near 58° 10' N. 4° 40'E. (Capt. S.3 0859/12 to WILK.)
CLYDE.	Leaves Dundee p.m./12 escorted by BULLDOG till arrival Cape Wrath about 1500/13. Route thence. Surface ships not to attack doubtful submarines 20 miles either side of following line between following times, nor A/C to bomb submarines in same areas and times. (A.C.O.S. 0956/12).
M.43.	Exercising in Plymouth Submarine area. (C.in C. W.A. 1505/12).
M.34.	Exercising in Scapa Flow a.m. and p.m./12. (A.C.O.S. 1609/12).
SEAWOLF.	On arrival at position 061° 000° 01' SEAWOLF is to proceed submerged by day to patrol off Fro Havet to Eastward of Halten arriving there by daylight/16. Force D consisting of H.M.S. FURIOUS H.M.S. BERWICK H.M.S. NORFOLK and destroyers will be near 071° 015° on night 15/16. Object of SEAWOLF to attack enemy warships that may be in Trondhjem should they proceed to sea to intercept Force D. (V.A.S. 1653/12 to SEAWOLF).
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/13. (V.A.S.1657/12).
Greenock Area.	Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1705/12).
L.27 UPRIGHT.	Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1813/12).
Notice of [illegible].	My 1126/2. Lorient. (V.A.S.1914/12 to TRIDENT).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

E Boats.

Portland. One E Boat. My position 235° Portland Bill 20 miles. (DANEMAN 0032/12).
E-Boat 160° Portland Bill at 0040. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0050/12).
E-Boat reported in 50° 21'N. 2° 53'W. at 0032 and gun flashes reported to W. of this previously. Investigate. Line BY is patrolled by A/S Trawler. (C.in C. W.A. 0117/12 to BROKE, BURZA, WANDERER, GARLAND)

2 unknown vessels bearing 330° 3 miles course 260. My position 280° 50° N., 1° W. 27 miles. (JACKAL 0244/12 to C.in C. Portsmouth) Have engaged 2 fast Enemy Small Craft but have lost contact. (JACKAL 0314/12 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Off Fecamp. 8 E-Boats were off Fecamp at 1130/12. (UPRIGHT 0130/12).

British Air Activity.

Antwerp. 2 Wellingtons attacked Docks during night 10/11. Large fires started. (B.C.Summary 477).

S.A.1E. Patrol cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 0914/12).

Off Trondheim. Aircraft attacked 3 M/V's at 0943 and 1002/12. Near misses and smoke observed. (Donibristle 1452/12 to Admty).

Lorient. To be attacked tonight. Targets. (H.Q.C.C. 1510/12 to 16 Group).

Rosyth Area. Air Search for 13/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/12).

Bristol Channel. Balloon Barrage Vessels. My 2326/18/7 and 1644/8/8. Expected dates of completion of allocated Vessels. (D. of L.D. 1947/12).

Sheep Island Anchorage. My 1950/8. Anchorage North of Sheep Island. R.A.F. inform me that flying boats would be forced alight and take off in the middle of Firth of Lorne thereby losing all shelter provided by Kerrera Island against winds between S.E. and S.W. This would delay operational flying and frequently make take off impossible owing to rough sea. This additional anchorage is therefore not considered available. (C.in C. W.A. 2000/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth. At 2152/11 several Incendiary Bombs dropped in Elson and Frater area. No damage or casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0138/12).

Sheerness. Time lost owing to air raid warning amounts to five hours since 0700/5. No damage or casualties sustained and no appreciable interference has resulted affecting Naval supply production or repair at Sheerness. At 2150/8 two bombs fell and exploded within the anti-aircraft establishment Bartons Point. No substantial damage and no casualties.
(Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1208/12 to Admty).

Liverpool. Details of damage by Air-raid 11/10. (SCE.Liverpool 1756/12 to C.E. in C.)

Convoy. Bacon. One aircraft shadowing in 50° 34'N., 0° 43' W. Course W, speed 7 knots. (FERNIE 1030/12

North Sea. German Naval A/C active over North Sea between 53° 30'N and 56° N. since 2008/12. This activity by Naval aircraft is most unusual. (D.D.I.C. 2200/12 to C.in C. H.F, Rosyth, Nore).
German Naval Aircraft activity developing from 54° 20'N. 2° 30' E. First observation 2008/12. Any such movement most unusual. (C.in C. Rosyth 2251/12 to Ships.)

Mining. (1).

East Coast. From Special Intelligence and Flares observed it appears certain that E-Boats have been engaged in minelaying operations off Harwich and to the Northward. Reports of flares indicate that E-Boats were in a position approximately midway between N.E. Gunfleet and Sunk Head and also near Shipwash. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0021/12 to C.in C. Nore).

RESOLVO. (H.M.Trawler). Damaged by heavy under water explosion 30 yards astern of ship in position 6 cables 083° from Knot Bell Buoy at 2030/12. Ship steaming 063° at 7 knots not sweeping. Now beached south of outer Bar Buoy. Crew all saved, two cot cases not serious and some minor casualties.
(C.in C. Nore. 0605/13 to Admty).

Humber. Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 0910/12)

S.N.100. Completed. (RAML. 1042/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (1)(Contd.)

Trawler
LL Trials. — Your 1532/9. Concur with proposals. (D.T.M. 1206/12 to VERNON).

Tees
Hartlepool. — My 2045/11. Expect to open Ports by 1700/12. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1215/12 to Admty). Ports are open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1614/12 to Admty).
EREBUS reports explosion occurred 1 point 5 cables on starboard beam between East knob and Knock John buoys at 2013/11. Four more explosions occurred within 5 seconds at 2051/11 when EREBUS was in position 327° point 5 miles from South Edinburgh No. 2 buoy. Bearing and distance of explosions from South Edinburgh No.2 buoy 298° point 85 miles, 314° point 48 miles, 127° point 54 miles, 75° point 78 miles. CAMPBELL VESPER CATTISTOCK in company. First of four explosions was one nearest EREBUS. Black smoke. No flash. Clear moonlight night: No aircraft seen or heard: no damage.

It seems inconclusive from evidence whether explosions at 2051 were caused by mines or bombs.
(C.in C. Nore. 1255/12 to Admty.)

Mining (2).

Blyth.
Seaham.
Sunderland. — Closed. (C.in C. Rosyth. 1256/12 to BLACK SWAN).

Blyth. — My 2142/11. Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1405/12 to Admty).

Sunderland. — Port re-opened. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1540/12)

ZULU. — My1446/11 (Explosion). ZULU was using type 573 Echo Sounding Gear. Ships ahead of her were not. (C.in C. H.F. 1634/12 to Admty).

14 M/S
Trawlers.
off Falmouth. — Request Fighter protection from 1300 to 1830/13 in 50° 8'N., 5° 1'30"W. to 49° 55'N., 5° 12'W. and return. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1846/12 to C.in C. W.A).

Harwich. — 'O' Sweep 148 Q.Z.S. Trawlers cut 2 German mines, one in 52° 01.2'N., 01° 45.3' E; one in 52° 03'N, 01° 44.8' E.
One exploded in sweep in 51° 59.6' N., 01° 44.5'E. One dragged in sweep, sighted and sunk in 52° 07.9'N., 01° 53'E.
Paddle Sweepers in 148 Q.Z.S. report 2 mines exploded in 51 59.7' 01 44.4' E. Also one underwater heavy explosion no apparent cause in 52 03'N., 01 44.4'E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2006/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (2). (Contd.)

Humber. Closed, owing to Mines laid by aircraft. (F.O. Humber 2153/12 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Boulogne. My 1439/11. M/V's reported off Boulogne, at 1220/11 were barges and Towing Craft; and about 6 minesweepers escorted by one probable E-Boat 7 miles to S.W. (D.D.I.C. 0215/12 to C's in C.)

Brest. 7 Destroyers can be seen. (P.R.U. St.Eval 1530/12 to H.Q.C.C.)

Ushant. 4 large M/V's between Ushant and mainland steering south at 1115/12. (V.A.S. 1719/12).

Tromso. Finnish S.S. KASTELHOLM released by Germans after detention at Tromso reports that she was boarded by large Armed Trawler on passage out only 3 hours out of Petsamo and also inspected by Germans on passage back about 30 miles from Vardo. There appear to be no warships at Tromso but there is considerable activity on the part of Norwegian vessels of which a number are being sent to and from Spitzbergen. (Petsamo 1759/12 to D.N.I.)

Norwegian Coast. W/T Traffic suggests a movement of German Naval Units from Northern Norway southwards, to the Skagerak. These units may be as far south as Trondheim this evening and may include destroyers or larger ships. (D.D.I.C.2002/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

Ijmuiden, Tholen Island. } Shipping observed during night 10/11. (H.Q.C.C. 0041/12).

Technical.

Aircraft Depth Charge Attacks. Following are recommendations for these attacks. Depth-settings, height, speed, etc. (5th S.L. 2035/12. Admty.R.Message 164R).

Anti-E-Boat H.E. Barrage. Time fuzed H.E. barrage is in progress of development in Home Fleet as an anti-E-Boat offensive. Progress to date is promising and a well placed barrage creates a spectacular effect in the water. The best method of operating this form of barrage is still under development. The requirements being to position the barrage at ranges varying from 1500 to 5000 yards and for the shells to burst at a height of about 100 feet from the water. (C.in C. H.F. 1121/12 and 1756/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ALYNBANK. On arrival of Convoy proceed to Rosyth, for examination of damage. (R.A.D. H.F. 0244/12 to ALYNBANK)

MAURETANIA. Defects have developed in two Boilers. Estimated time of repair 2 months. Can steam 21 knots on remaining four Boilers. Intend sail her with U.S.6. which now sails from Sydney 20/10. (N.B. Melbourne 0707 Z/12 to D. of S.T.)

SCYTHE. Tug. Your 1105/12. Unable leave Hayle today owing to weather and inefficient state of Boilers. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1630/12 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping.
H.X. 77	Dispersed at 2340/11. SHIKARI endeavour to reform at daylight. (A.C.W.A. 0213/12) If not in company with convoy report whether my 1600/11 was passed to commodore. (C.in C. W.A. 1000/12). LADY LILIAN to join (C.in C. W.A. 2303/12). U.boat possible shadowing (C.in C. W.A. 1309/12).
O.A. 228.	Position (FOWEY 2300/12) Escorts FOWEY, BLUEBELL (N.C.S.O. Methil 0810/12).
S.L. 49.	PANDANGO to meet 0745/13, position (ANTELOPE, 2021/12)
F.S. 7.	Numbers from Tyne, Blyth, etc. (C.in C. Rosyth to LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN, 1921/12).
F.N. 6.	Blyth, Seaham, Tees, Hartlepool, Sunderland closed. 3 ships in F.N.6 should be diverted to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1256/12).
W.N. 22.	Position (CAMPANULA, 1800/12) Petrol carrier PETROBUS to join (C.in C. W.A. 2250/12).
O.B.N. 220-229.	Dates. Escorts ARSENAL and ROSEMARY. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1831/12)
F.S.6.	4th M/S. F. to sweep through dangerous portion of Q.Z.S. 148. VETERAN and WILD SWAN to join. (C.in C. Nore, 1550/12)
F.S. 9.	Will leave Methil 0030/13. Close escort VEGA, VIMIERA (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/12).
O.L. 7.	Sailing Liverpool a.m./13. Escorts. HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK from Liverpool, HURRICANE, KEPPEL from Clyde, OTTAWA, SARDONYX from Lough Foyle (C.in C. W.A. 0957/12).
Dartmouth.	Intended sailings and escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1054/12, 1501/12, 1522/12) sailed. (1945/12).
BOUVET II.	A.C.O.S. 1745/11. Intend sailing for Scapa 1600/12. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0915/12).

Troop Convoys

ALMANZORA.	Clyde, to be used for troop movement. (D. of S.T., 2345/12).
ANTONIA.	Liverpool, to be used for troop movement. (D. of S.T., 2345/12).
Darkening Ship.	Importance of. (D.O.D. (P) 2153/12).

MOST SECRET

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville Patrol.

My 1841/11. Intend KELT to join Libreville Patrol after coaling Duala 12/10. (C.S.1. 0020/12).

My 1841/11. Join me in position A at 0800 zone - 1 on 15/10. KELT will be in vicinity of position B, 280° 10 miles from A. (C.S.1 to DELHI, 0955 A/12).

PRIMAUGUET

If PRIMAUGUET met, report position, course and speed and for how many hours you can shadow. (D.C. to BARHAM, 1018/12)

AUSTRALIA

To join BARHAM. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1701/12)

BARHAM.

Position course and speed at 1900 Z. (BARHAM to AUSTRALIA, 1830/12).

Admiralty. Repeated C.in C. South Atlantic. Admty 0106/11. De Gaulle enthusiastically received in Cameroons. Believe De Gaulle considers best interest of his cause demands avoidance, at almost any cost, of armed conflict against Vichy force in Gabon. He intends to use his air force, when ready, mainly for R.C. and an attempt to force Vichy naval force to withdraw from Libreville and Port Gentil by threat of bombing. He realizes need for quick action against Libreville but appears to be content to rely on effect of Naval measures and reported shortage of food in Libreville to complete its capitulation. Most of his influential supporters in Gabon have been arrested. He readily agreed to use of Free French ships for next 3 weeks for patrol off Libreville and parts of Gentil. He places great reliance on moral effect to be produced by his cruisers though it is impracticable these can reach Gabon front for several weeks. Not considered that early results can be expected from offensive policy, furthermore greater naval forces than are likely to be available would be required to make effective the virtual blockade of Libreville upon which De Gaulle appears to rely. Meanwhile action as in my 1841/11 is being taken.
(C.S. 1, 0200/12 to Adty.)

/Communications .....

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French (Continued).

Communications. Submit you will note that cables from Freetown to Duala are sent over land lines in order to avoid Vichy Territory and are sometimes subject to delay.
(C.in C. S.A. 1047/12, to F.O. I.C.S.)

Free French Naval Forces. Have received from General de Gaulle requests concerning establishment of a Naval Base at Pointe Noire also the dispatch to Free French Equatorial Africa of warships and personnel. Consider that an exchange of views between the First Sea Lord and myself should take place. Requested that following officers attend.
(A.C. Free French N.F. 1630/12 to Admty.)

My 0106/11 para. 2. Realised not practicable to establish a blockade of Dakar with forces available, but important to intercept as much shipping as possible. Stoppage of imports (which are more likely to be unescorted) may affect local inhabitants to detriment of Vichy Government and so enhance cause for De Gaulle. Suggested that alternative patrol lines about 100 miles in length be established:-
(A) Southwards from a position 80 miles East of Porta Praya.
(B) North Eastwards from a position 60 miles East of Bonavista.
(C) Eastwards from a position 60 miles from Northern extremity of (B)
Policy laid down in your 1957/5 para. (c) is concurred in except that at present escorted merchant ships are not to be interfered with.
(D.O.D. (F) 1849/12 to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

STARLING Bombed — W. by S. to Cadiz. STARLING bombed and machine gunned. (Gibraltar Radio, 0939/12)

Raider report — Admty. 0941/12 passed to you for information (see America and W. Indies). Position given in raider report was 49.34 N. 35.15 W. (F.O.C. N.A. 2305/12 to KENYA, PRETORIA CASTLE).

Lisbon. — Reported motor yacht VICTORIOSO loaded for Morocco expected to sail 11/10. Motor luggers AMPHITRITE, PRIMEIRO also fully loaded same destination sailing about 12/10. (Lisbon, 1616/12).

FIREDRAKE GREYHOUND — Your 1600/12. It appears WISHART has dealt with ORAO. (see U-Boat CAMPAIGN). Unless S.O. Force H can add to this information, join GREYHOUND escorting 2 transports during daylight 13/10. (F.O.C.N.A. to FIREDRAKE, 2202/12).

STARLING — My (?1252) 12. Following information from Cadiz. S.S. STARLING has now reached Cadiz with damaged steering gear and other superficial damage. Aircraft which attacked her was a four engined bomber believed to be Italian and reported by Spanish fisherman as having identification marks underneath consisting of black cross inside circle, but no other details were observed. Attack was made in position 3.5 miles from Cadiz, aircraft approaching ship from landward, finally making off in southerly direction. Casualties sustained five killed and seven wounded, one seriously. My 1915 gives names of casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1912/12.)

South Atlantic.

CANTON CARNARVON CASTLE — Your 1065 B/11 approved. Sail CANTON 14/10 and CARNARVON CASTLE on completion to comply with my 1157/11. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0105/12).

Route from Clyde to Freetown. (C.in C. W.A. 1651/12).

Aircraft Base. — My 1837/9. If work in connection with (a) Flying Boats Base and (b) Accommodation and operation of bomber aircraft is approved, consider this work and accommodation and operation of an air fighter squadron should take precedence of work for establishment of Fleet Air Arm maintenance unit already approved.
(C.in C. S.A. 0219/12 to Admty.)

/ DORSETSHIRE .....

MOST SECRET

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Continued)

DORSETSHIRE
Lagos

Director of Nigeria Marine in reply to message asking if DORSETSHIRE class cruiser had visited Lagos and could fuel there states DORSETSHIRE has visited and could fuel from oiler at Maria buoy. R F A LUCIGEN draught 24 feet 5 inches loaded.
(C.in C. S.A. 1921/12 to F.O.I.C.S.)

DRAGON
CASANARE

CORNWALL's 1946/12. Am in company with CASANARE. She reported DORSETSHIRE. She is all well bound to Victoria. Am proceeding. Position. (DRAGON 1945/12

Convoy S L 52.

R.V. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1439/12).

Mediterranean

Two Enemy Cruisers position 035° 50' 016° 25' course unknown at 0306.
(Capt. S. 1 0351/12 to Submarines on patrol).

URSULA
UPRIGHT
UTMOST

Decided to send to Mediterranean. Date for URSULA. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1335/12).

PANDORA

Orders for patrol. (Capt. S. 1, 1421/12).

Minesweepers.

Admty. 1232/1 and C.in C. Med. 1156/11. In view of urgent requirement for fleet minesweepers, Malta, HUNTLY and DERBY are to be sailed to Mediterranean. (D.M.S. 1836/12).

Operations
M.B.6.

Following information received of current Fleet operations. During passage of Mediterranean Fleet and Convoy M F three to Malta from 8/10 to 11/10 little enemy air activity. Some Italian U-Boats were reported by aircraft to S.W. of Crete and one was heavily depth charged by Destroyers.

Refuelling of Destroyers, COVENTRY CALCUTTA and RAMILLIES carried out in Grand harbour during 11/10 without interruption. Thunderstorms prevented air raids. IMPERIAL was mined but was brought into harbour. Convoy M F 4 consisting of VOLO, Oiler PLUMLEAF, and AFRIS sailed after dark for Alexandria. During night of 11/10 and 12/10 AJAX was in action with enemy torpedo boats and reported sinking two. A Sunderland Flying boat sighted 2 Destroyers about 100 miles E. of Malta at 0630 one of which was damaged and on fire. These

were /

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.B.6. (Contd.)

These were probably the torpedo boats reported by AJAX. The damaged destroyer DARDO or later class was sunk by units of Fleet. Other destroyer chased but escaped to northwards. At 1100 same flying boat sighted three FIUME Class Cruisers and three enemy destroyers escorted by Fighter aircraft in N.E. position 65 miles of Malta, appeared to be making for Tripoli (Africa). No. 830 Squadron (F.A.A.) Striking Force despatched from Hal Far at 1300 failed to locate target.
(V.A. Malta, 2015/12).

East Indies.

GLIMMAREN. Admty. 1351/11. Mauritius reports Swedish GLIMMAREN completed loading mica and graphite for New York but proposes calling Bombay and Basra. Ordered by New York to cancel call Cochin (C.in C. E.I. 0746Z/12).

ULSTER PRINCE. My 1804/6. Date of arrival Aden. To join A.P.3½ for onward passage to Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0602Z/12).

Dutch Ships, Reunion. Your 0547/22 para.3. Chief censer Mauritius reports K P M Agent Reunion in reply to cable from Head Office Batavia early in September telegraphed 1/10 Dutch ships may call at Reunion subject to previous authority of local Government, application be made for each occasion. This appears at variance with ruling given by Dutch C.in C. (C.in C.E.I. 0744Z/12 to C.in C. China).

KIMBERLEY. Bombed. KIMBERLEY on Perim patrol bombed at 1345Z/12. No damage reported. (C.in C.E.I. 1502/Z/12)
Summary No.122 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 12/10. 2 Blenheims and 2 Vincents 8 Squadron continued punitive bombing Quteibis during day. 3 Blenheims 203 squadron fighter escort to convoy B S 61 remaining Kamaran overnight 4 Gladiators 94 Squadron standing fighter patrol singly Aden 0750 to 1110. KIMBERLEY on Perim patrol reports bombing attack 3 miles off Perim 1345, all times G.M.T. no casualties. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1856/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies- Contd.

Red Sea Dhows

My 0616/1. KLWAFI has returned to 'Aden but Kamaran business traffic to Massowa has not ceased nor has traffic to Assab. Governor of Aden being asked now to warn Imam accordingly, and if Governor agrees intend taking action against Dhows as from 17/10. (C. in C., E.I., 1734Z/12)

DEVONSHIRE
RANEE
PUNDIT

Movements (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 0535Z/12)

China

De Gaulle Movements

Your 1036/1. Pending full appreciation of situation, Indo China, H.M.G. do not intend to take any action in support of either of General Martin or of a local de Gaulle movement in Indo China. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 1519/12)

America & West Indies

Raider Report

See 11/10. Vessel sighted starboard quarter hull down steaming parallel with Commodore of Convoy altered towards me and over-taking. After sending message altered course about 4 points crossed my stern and went out of sight on port and northward steering about south 10 east true painted grey buff funnel amidships about 5,000 tons gross. (AMAKURA 0150/12 to Adty.)

Rw her raider report at 1225/11 AMAKURA now states that unknown ship passed under her stern without hostile action and was last seen steering about 170 degrees. (D.D.I.C., 0941/12 to C. in C., A.W.I., etc.)

Your 1200/11. Thorough search carried out nothing sighted now proceeding patrol area. (CIRCASSIA, 2000/12, to C. in C., W.A.)

Lights of Ships West Coast America

Proposal that British and Allied Merchant ships should burn navigation lights at full brilliancy and proceed undarkened while on normal coastal route on west coast of America has been under consideration. On these routes a raider, should one appear, is not likely to attack shipping indiscriminately and it would, therefore be an advantage if British and Allied shipping were not made conspicuous by being darkened. Request Admty's view. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1302/12)

/Assisting....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Assisting Ships Attacked

Reference D.M.S. part one para 4. In view of ships now being sunk on high seas many miles distant from waters covered by coasting and patrol craft it is suggested absolute prohibition against proceeding to assistance in such cases be reconsidered. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1143/12 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EISENACH	Port Limon reports she is believed to have enough coal bunkers for 3 days' sailing (S.O. (I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1158/12)
SPEZIA	Consul, Valencia, reports finished loading and steam up. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1203/12)
SCHARNHORST	Reported by Standard Oil Co., to have loaded to capacity with oil fuel. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 13452/12)
HANNOVER	Seamen ex HANNOVER left San Domingo for Port au Prince today. (S.O. (I) 2050/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ANTONIOS CHANDRIS — N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro reports Portuguese ship SERPA PINTO which left St. Vincent C.V. 4/10, due Rio de Janeiro 13/10 picked up on 7/10 22 of crew of Greek Ship ANTONIOS CHANDRIS stated to have been torpedoed.
Source of information Greek Consul Rio de Janeiro. Ship originally reported as TONIS CHANDRIS since corrected, but no information that ANTONIOS CHANDRIS is in SouthvAtlantic.
Estimated position of rescued 001° N., 030° W. (C. in C., S.A., 1148/12)

ORAO — Yugoslav, 5755 tons. Am being shadowed by submarine, my position at 1430, 35.43 N., 10.20 W., (ORAO 1424/12) Crew deserted ship am being fired on. (ORAO, 1455/12) ORAO proceeding Gibraltar with armed guard from HOTSPUR reports crew have deserted ship and are being fired on (position) F.O.C.N.A., 1600/12) Have detached destroyers to close ORAO and hunt 35.43 N., 10.20 W., rejoining at 0800/13. (S.O.Force H., 1640/12 to C. in C., S.A.,) Attacked by German submarine 45 miles S.W. of Portimao Algarve. (N.C.S.O. 2010/12)

CAPE BARRACOUTA Escaped — Reports unsuccessfully attacked by submarine 36.50 N., 10° W., at 0800/12. (F.O.C.N.A., 1603/1653/12)

PACIFIC RANGER — British, 6865 tons. Torpedoed 56.20 N., 11.43 W., at 1919/12. SUPERMAN and SEAMAN ordered to assist. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1931/12)

Submarines Reported

0955 — 30 North of Rockall Rock, submarine sighted EXPLORER. (Scapa, 0955/12)

0800 — 36.50 N., 10° W A.F. meaage, from Admiral, Gibraltar. (Gibraltar, W/T, 1209/12)

1212 — D.F., U-Boat between 56° and 57°, 26° and 17° W., possibly shadowing HX 77 (C. in C., W.A., 1309/12) (D.D.I.C., 1322/12)

1222 — D.F., U-Boat in 56° 20' N., 11° 20' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1309/12) (D.D.I.C., 1322/12

/Weather Reports...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Weather Reports

When ships report sighting submarines not in immediate vicinity of the coast it should be of the greatest assistance to R.A.F. in deciding whether it is practicable to send aircraft to hunt if ship were to make a brief weather report (C. in C., Rosyth, 1920/12)

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Raid on A/S trawlers 11/10.

During the raid by enemy light craft on trawlers on 11/10 A/S trawlers LISTRAC and WARWICK DEEPING were sunk. Two French chasseurs 06 and 07 are also missing.

M.T.B. patrol.

3 M.T.B's last night carried out a patrol in the Straits of Dover.

British Air Activity.

R.A.F. last night attacked Channel ports and Dortmund-Ems Canal.
Reconnaissance of the Norwegian fiords from Statdlandet to south of Kristiansand was carried out between 1145 and 1305.

Enemy Air Activity.

A fire was caused late this evening at the Naval Depot at Hull.

Mining.

R.A.F. last night laid mines in the St. Nazaire and Lorient area.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was apparent from the Humber to Farne Island, and was also reported in the areas from Portland to the Needles, Selsey Bill to Coquet Island, and from North Foreland to Southwold.
7 Mines were found today in the Dover Straits, and 2 exploded near destroyers proceeding in the Thames Approaches.
Owing to mines in the Medway, traffic is using Thames gate.
The Humber was opened this morning but was closed from Spurn Point to Chequer Shoal buoy this evening. A mine was exploded this morning.
Westray Firth, Orkneys, was reopened this morning.
DANUBE III (Examination vessel) was mined and sunk off Sheerness this morning. Yacht JANETHA IV was damaged by near mine explosions whilst proceeding to rescue survivors, but returned to harbour.
SUMMER ROSE (M/S Drifter) was mined and sunk off Sunderland today.

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

S.S. ANTONIOS CHANDRIS (Greek 5865 tons) on passage from Cardiff to Buenos Aires is reported sunk by an enemy raider at 8/9 600 miles W.S.W. of Cape Verde Is. The master and 21 of the crew were picked up by S.S. SERPA PINTO (Portuguese) and landed at Rio de Janeiro today. Another boat with 11 men is missing. FAULKNOR, FURY, FORESTER and FORESIGHT left Freetown this evening for Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

VIDO mined

It is reported that the S.S. VIDO (Yugo Slavian) which left Istanbul 4/10 for Braila with jute on British account for Belgrade, has been mined and sunk off the mouth of the Danube.

FRANCO FASSIO torpedoed

It is reported from Spain that the Italian S.S. FRANCO FASSIO was torpedoed and sunk off Savona several days ago.

Bombardment of Sidi Barrani

Between 0230 and 0310 today LADYBIRD bombarded Italian positions at Sidi Barrani, assisted by one Bombay aircraft.

Tobruk bombed

Military and naval buildings along the north foreshore of Tobruk harbour were bombed by R.A.F. this evening. The defences appeared to be taken by surprise.

F.A.A. attack Port Lago

About 2300 today F.A.A. successfully attacked Port Lago (Dodecanese).

East Indies.

The Dutch tanker SWARTEN HONDT reported this morning that she was being attacked by an enemy raider about 420 miles E.N.E. of Durban.
She cancelled her distress signal at 1842/13. S.S. DAHLIA reported sighting a suspicious vessel in approximately the same position at 0600/13. KANIMBLA has been ordered to proceed to cover shipping.

Perim was attacked from the air three times yesterday and today, but no damage or casualties were caused.
Aden was bombed today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

CYCLAMEN — Is allocated to Liverpool Corvette Division (C. in C., W.A., 1041/13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Shoot at sight is I am convinced the only practical policy for our patrol vessels. LISTRAC was challenging when first shells hit her and the two chasseurs probably had similar experiences. But in conditions of low visibility these patrol vessels may be off their station and encounter friends. Therefore, I intend to operate the patrol vessels in groups instead of singly, one group covering lines F.O.H. one lines L.M.C. and one group lines D.E. when visibility is low or no recent air reconnaissance of enemy ports or when reports of activity in enemy ports is received. These groups will patrol at highest practical speed and will shoot at sight. This will leave gaps but is considered the better policy. Intend also to use 4th M.A./S.B. flotilla when trained for Anti-E-Boat sweeps. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1303/13 to Adty.)

Holland and Italy — Although Netherlands Govt. have not declared war on Italy, they have ordered Dutch Warshi to attack any Italian Raider at sight. Head of M. 1711/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

Lorient / Bordeaux — Propose Bomber Command be asked to attack concentrations of U-Boats in Lorient and Bordeaux. (C. in C., W.A., 1839/13 to Adty.)

DUNCAN, FAME, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND — Propose these ships join 13th Flotilla as 25th Division leaving U.K. about 18/10 and relieving INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ESCAPADE, ECLIPSE and FORESIGHT who would return to U.K. for repairs. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.A., H. 1859/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — At 0200/13. (D.C. 0214/13) At 1400/13. (D.C. 1431/13)

MOST SECRET

13.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

ANTHONY VERITY	Detach in time to meet HX 78, 31 ships unescorted, at 1600/14 in 60° N., 20° 43' W Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1140/13 to WORCESTERSHIRE)
KING GEORGE V	Adty. 0215/10 and 1230/12. Request you arrange for sweeping of channels at junction of QZ8 176 as far as 21 Buoy. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1145/13 to F.O. Tyne) Presume that Air Protection is being arranged by Adty. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1910/13 to Adty.)
BERWICK	Intend passing through G at 1510/13, course 014°, speed 18.5 knots. (BERWICK 1224/13 to NORFOLK, PUNJABI, MATEBELE) Met NORFOLK, PUNJABI, MATEBELE at 1750 in 63° 35' N., 3° 39' W. and passed your position, course and speed. (Capt. D.6. 2359/13 to BERWICK)
DUNCAN ESKIMO	Expect arrive 0900/14. (DUNCAN 1344/13 to F.O.C.C.S.)
CHESHIRE	Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P's 1100/12. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1345/13 to Adty.)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 13/14. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1517/13)
Orkneys	Movements for night 13/14 (A.C.O.S., 1531/13
Western Channel	Night Report (C. in C., W.A., 1625/13 and 1855/13)
EGLINGTON WIVERN WORCESTER	Sailed from Harwich 1821/13. (F.O.I.C., 1831/13 to Adty.)
Rosyth Area	Movements for night 13/14. (C. in C., Rosyth 1934/13)
WESTON	My position 57° 18' N., 7° 1' W., course 185°, speed 12 knots. (WESTON 1940/13 to C. in C., W.A.) Position at 2144/13 (WESTON 2144/13 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

M.T.B. Patrol — My 1406/12. M.T.B's 70,69, 5 carried out patrol (V.A.Dover 0736/13)

Operation D.N. — (Skudenes to Lister) My 1841/12. Confirmed that operation is advanced 24 hours. Fighter protection Code Word REBEL. (C. in C., H.F., 0957/13 to Adty.)

Dover Patrol — 3 Destroyers from Sheerness are to be prepared to carry out Dover Patrol between Nos. 1 and 10 Buoys tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1048/13 to D. 21) Ships sail from Sheerness 1615 and pass South Goodwin at 2000. (C. in C., Nore, 1134/13 to D. 21)

M.T.B's on Belgian Coast — 70 foot M.T.B's to operate between Nieuport and Flushing tonight, and 60 foot M.T.B's between Thornton Ridge and Ijmuiden, returning at daylight 14th. Care to be taken that units do not meet. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E., may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C., Nore, 1148/13 to BEEHIVE)

Possible Attack on Tay — Special intelligence indicates that Enemy are considering if weather is suitable for attack on Tay. Presume air attack referred to, but naval attack cannot be ruled out. See my 2200/12. (A.C.N.S. H. 1640/13 to C. in C., Rosyth)
Are Army and Air Force standing to in the region. (C. in C., H.F., 1736/13 to Adty.)
My 1640. Correct A.B.I. as follows. (D.S.O. 1832/13 to C. in C., Rosyth)
My 2200/12 (Enemy aircraft activity in North Sea) Correct A.B.I. as follows. (D.S.O. 1857/13 to C. in C., H.F.)
Your 1736/13. Information was given to Hofors and Air Ministry who have passed it on to Commands concerned. (A.C.N.S. H. 1919/ to C. in C., H.F.)

Iceland. Removal of Walrus Aircraft — Adty. 1504/12. Estimated time embarking Squadron 5 fine days. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1830/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Additional Submarine at Campbeltown

Following received from NIMROD addressed Capt. S (7) begins re my 102/100/16/8. 3 submarines are required weekly commencing Monday 14/10. As I am informed only 2 submarines available from 7th Sub Flotilla it is requested application may be made to V.A.S. for a third submarine. 3 submarines are required from now onwards. 1729/9. ends. With present number of submarines attached to 7 submarine Flotilla a third submarine cannot be provided regularly at Campbeltown until either (a) submarine H.34 returns from Scapa (b) Netherland submarine O9 completes refit and then only when there are 3 or less than 3 C.O.Q.C. officers for sea training. (Capt S. 7. 0946/10 to V.A.S)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/14. (V.A.S 1619/13)

O. 24

To be brought to immediate notice. (V.A.S. 1719/13 to S. 9.)

H.S. 49

Proceed to patrol near 56° 30' N., 0° 30' W (V.A.S. 1729/13 to STURGEON)

UPRIGHT

Report on Area D. 4. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2017/13 to Adty.)

Submarines for A/S Training

Your 0946/10. The whole question is being raised with Adty. (V.A.S. 2151/13 to S.7.)

British Air Activity

No operations took place on 12/10 owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C. 0001/13)

Brest

To be attacked tonight 13/14. Targets (H.Q.C.C. 1529/13)

Tyne Balloon Barrage

Owing to alteration to area of examination anchorage by the establishment of a controlled minefield, request area in which balloon barrage vessels operating off the Tyne entrance may be increased to cover an area of 1 1/2 sea miles from the North Pier Light between East and North West.
The existing area to the southward of North Pier Light requires no modification.
(D. of L.D. 1540/13 to Air Ministry)

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Operations

Bomber Command Intelligence Summary No 478 Operations night 11/12 Oct. (H.Q.B.C. 1940/13 Summary No 476. Operations night 10/11 Oct. (H.Q.B.C. 2030/13) Summar No 480. Operations night 12/13 October. (H.Q.B.C., 1713/13)

Enemy Air Activity

Kjevik Aerodrome

20 Kilometres East of Christiansand is being greatly extended for military purposes and locally believed to be completed on 1/10. Information from passengers in Icelandic ESJA. (C.O.S.O. Kirkwall, 1016/13 to Adty.)

SATELITE

Trinity House vessel SATELITE reports that regularly about 12 noon and 1300 hours, an enemy aircraft has been seen flying westwards out of the mouth of the Bristol Channel, making its course over the lightship SEVEN STONES. From there it deviates its course southwards to the Wolf Lighthouse and thence in the direction of Lizard Point.
The SATELITE was machine gunned by a Germann 2 engined Dornier Airplane at 1315 hours, position 2½ miles North (magnetic) from Wolf Lighthouse on 25.9.40. (D.O.D. H. 2235/13 to H.Q.C.C.)

Mining

Examination Vessel Mined

At 080 (?) Medway Gate 1 mile. (VANITY 0844/13 to C. in C.,Nore) See DANUBE III

Explosions at Medway Gate and near South Shipwash

My 0845/13. Explosions occurred in rapid succession one minute after original two cables Northward of it. H.M.S. VANITY had just begun turning Northwards out of Medway Gate with 020° of wheel and revolutions staggered Starboard Engines 129 Port Engines 169 and was 6 cables distant. H.M.S. SHELDRAKE reports explosions with plume of water in position 3 miles Eastward of South Shipwash at 1816/13. Nearest ship was 3 cables Westward of explosion. (VANITY 0915/14 to C. in C., Nore)

Falmouth

4 mines cut in Channel on 12/10, one found floating, all sunk. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1000/13 to Adty.)

/Tyne.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Tyne	One Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by Red LL in 079° Roker Pier Light 2½ cables. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1013/13 to F.O.I.C Tyne)
Humber	Open to navigation (F.O. Humber 1028/13 to Adty.)
Orkneys	Cancel my 1105/11. (Westray Firth closed to shipping) (A.C.O.S. 1040/13) Object reported as Parachute submerged Barrage Balloon. (A.C.O.S. 1042/13 to Adty.)
Humber	Although Channel is believed clear, in view of uncertainty as to characteristics of German Mines it is considered undesirable for Cruiser to enter for the present with less than 15 feet of water above charted depth. (F.O.Humber 1054/13 to Adty.)
B.S. 41	Intend TEVIOT BANK to sail from Spurn Point at 1800/14, R/V with minesweeper at 0615/15 begin lay at 1200/15, and return same route. (S.O.Minelayers, Immingham 1105/13 to Adty.) LYDD is to R/V with TEVIOT BANK at 0615/15 at 20 D. Buoy (C. in C., Rosyth 1505/13 to M.S. 5)
Humber	Red Mine exploded by LL Trawlers in 255° Chequer Shoal Buoy 2½ cables. Very heavy explosion (F.O.Humber 1120/13 to Adty.)
SUMMER ROSE	M/S Drifter. Mined and sunk 100 yards N.W. of Red Conical Buoy Sunderland inner approach Channel. Chief Engineer and one rating missing. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1147/13 to Adty.)
Harwich	One mine exploded by Fleet Sweepers 5 cables 315° from 54 A Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1227/13 to Adty.)
Medway	Owing to mines, traffic is using Thames Gate. (C. in C., Nore, 1315/13 to Adty.)

/DANUBE III

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

DANUBE III
JANETHA IV

Tug DANUBE III sunk by underwater explosion this morning in position 2½ cables 305° from Outer Bar Buoy Sheerness. When Yacht JANETHA IV was proceeding to rescue survivors, two more explosions occurred about one cable on her beam in positions 340 2 cables and 358 2 cables from Outer Bar Buoy JANETHA IV damaged but made harbour. (C. in C., Nore, 1424/14 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary

Mine apparently acoustic exploded in position 158° West Barrow Beacon 17 cables. Mine exploded 200° from WOLFHOUND, the nearest ship, while WOLFHOUND was turning half ahead and half astern 140 revolutions. (WOLFHOUND 1506/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Knob Light Vessel

Mine exploded at 1440 about 1 cable ENE from Knob Light Vessel. (WOLSEY 1510/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Dover

My 1231. Sweeping today near QEX 216 by four Oropesa Trawlers seven mines found in following positions:-
One cut and two detonated five cables 036° No 1 Buoy
One detonated 2 cables 080° No 1 Buoy.
One cut 9 cables 170° No 4 Buoy.
One cut one mile 170° No 4 Buoy.
One cut 6 and half cables 165° No 4 Buoy
Intend to sweep Channel again and north-western section of QEX 216 tomorrow as tide and weather permit. (V.A.Dover 1725/13 to Adty.)

Harwich

Add to my 2006/12 explosion was 4 cables ahead of ship. Very high column of water approximately 200 feet high. Base seemed to be half the height like mine explosion but no sign of black. No ship in the vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1911/13 to Adty.)

Humber

Closed from Spurn Point to Chequer Shoal Buoy owing to aircraft minelaying (F.O.Humber 2103/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

French and Norwegian Ports	Summary of Photographic R/C's on 12/10. (H.Q.C.C. 0905/13).
Trondheim to Statlandet	Shipping seen on 13/10. (Donibristle 1545/13 to C.I.C.).
Brest Lorient Gironde	Warships seen. (V.A.S. 1654/13).
Dutch, French, and Belgian ports.	Shipping seen at 0920/13. (P.I.U. Wembley 1730/13).
Trondheim.	R/C on 13/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1834/13 to BERWICK, FURIOUS).
North Sea.	Air R/C. reports Convoy of 7 ships, one 8000 tons, five 2000 tons, one trawler at 1755 in 57° 58'N. 7°3' E. steering 300° at 5 knots. (C.in C. Rosyth 2056/13 to Capt. D.4.)

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

HALOVA.	Boiler defects developed while raising steam today will delay sailing by 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1206/13 to Adty.)
STALWART.	Rescue Tug. Is out of action for next 12 hours. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1940/13 to Adty.).
KING NEPTUNE.	My 1606/11. Arrived 12/10. (Cape Town 1065 R/13 to Adty.).
NORA	In S.C.G. Not arrived. Asking where she was last seen (C.in C. W.A. 1240/13 to ENCHANTRESS).

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MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
O.A. 231	Route (D.T.D. 1110/13).
B.A.S. 4.	Ships. Estimated t.o.d. 1330/13, E.T.A. Reykjavik dusk 17/10 (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1151/13).
E.N. 9.	Escorts BERKSHIRE, WOLVES, CAPE ARGONA, ARCTIC EXPLORER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0630/13).
B.A.S.	Sailed (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1359/13).
H.X. 79.	BIAFRA carries exceptionally important cargo. Place in central position and give additional escort if possible (D.T.D.1736/13, 1737/13).
B.S. 41.	Two Humber destroyers to be detailed as escort. C.in C. Rosyth arrange air escort (C.in C. Nore 1744/13)
F.N. 7. F.S. 8.	Escorts GUILLEMOT, SHELDRAKE, AGATE, AMETHYST (C.in C. Rosyth 1517/13).
	Your 1030 received. Essential that escort vessels should remain at sea to search and protect ships in H.X. 77 only and returning to harbour to fuel when necessary. (C.in C. W.A. 1317/13).
H.X. 77.	WESTON proceeding to collect, then to pick up ship (WESTON 1331/13). If no further developments by time you reach splitting point proceed to Rosyth (A.C.W.A.1903/13 to WESTON).
ALMANZORA ANTONIA "Rival"	To sail with troops for Iceland. Date. Escort LETITIA; her subsequent movements. Code word "Rival" (A.C.N.S.(H) 1900/13).
TORONTO CITY	Signal made in special code to her to join S.L. 51 (D.D.O.D.(H) 1750/11).

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Escape of French ships 10/6.

French N.A. has questioned me about passage in Prime Minister's speech indicating information of passage of French Warships through Straits of Gibraltar on 11/9 was not known (?Naval Intelligence). He was mystified and indignant as he had informed me of French Admiralty's signal the day before. I said I had passed on the signal. I made no other comment. Actually my 1809 10/9 to you and Gibraltar was sent within few minutes of receiving the information. (N.A. Madrid 1248/13).

Force H.

My position at 2000 A 034° 11' 011° 00' 060° 22½ knots. GALLANT, GRIFFIN, FIREDRAKE, in company. Request gate 1030/14. GREYHOUND WISHART and VIDETTE with ETTRICK KARANJA intend to arrive 0600/15. (S.O. Force H 1901/13). Convoys D.T.D. 1905/13 see America and West Indies.

FRANCO FASSIO sunk

Under Secretary of Spanish Foreign Office informed our commercial adviser last night that Italian steamship FRANCO FASSIO running between Genoa and Barcelona was torpedoed and sunk off Savona several days ago with loss of all or nearly all on board including 18 passengers of whom 4 were Spanish. (N.A. Madrid 1315/13).

South Atlantic.

Suspicious vessel.

Following from DALIA via Jacobs Radio.
(a) Received at 0556 G.M.T. 13/10. ROTULA reports suspicious vessel position 026° 05' 037° 41', description, does not alter course, engine probably stopped.
(b) Received at 0615 G.M.T. 13/10. ROTULA suspicious vessel disappeared.
(ii) DALIA subsequently Jacobs asked for position to be verified. Jacobs radio contacted ROTULA and had position confirmed as 026° 50' S. 037° 45'.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0905 Z/13).

/ DELHI ••••••••

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued).

DELHI
TOUAREG

My 1157/10 DELHI and TOUAREG with armed guard on board expect to arrive Outer Bar of Cameroons River 1,000 Zone minus one 14/10. Request arrangements may be made for ship to be taken over by the French and armed guard relieved on arrival at base buoy. DELHI will embark armed guard and sail as soon as possible. Has confirmation asked for in the last part of my 1157/10 been given.
(.in C. S.A. 1145/13 to N.C.S.O. Duala, DELHI).

Expect to arrive Cameroons outer bar 1000 zone minus one 14/10. Request instruction regarding relief of RESOLUTION armed guard now in Touareg. DELHI must leave Manoka by 1600/14 to comply with F.O.C. 1st C.S. 0955/12. (DELHI 2013/12.)

ANTONIOS CHANDRIS sunk 8/9 by raider

Master and 21 members of crew of ANTONIOS CHANDRIS landed here from Portuguese ship SERPA PINTO 13/10. Master reports being stopped by raider in 012° N. 035° W. at dusk 8/9 whilst on passage from Cardiff to Buenos Aires with coal. Armed boarding party sank ship with 3 explosive charges after crew had left in 2 ships life boats. Master not allowed to use his W/T but officer of party promised to make S.O.S. Description of raider not of much value as she did not approach close and dark had fallen but Master states was 3 island cargo steamer about 8000 tons with 2 unraked masts without topmasts unraked funnel(s) close abaft bridge straight stem counter stern. Superstructure and top strake of poop and forecastle white remainder black with flag painted on side abreast funnel(s) but nationality not visible. Boats parted company during first night and Master steered for position about 100 miles south west of Cape Verde Islands from where Trades drove him south to 007° N. 029° W. where he was picked up on 6/10. Chief Officer and 10 men in other boat ordered to steer north east stated to have provisions for over 40 days. Master would be glad to have news whether this boat yet found.

Master HIGHLAND PRINCESS estimates ship making raider distress signals reported by his 2118 8th October to Admiralty was 30 miles distant.
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1620/13).

/ ENTERPRISE .....

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (continued).

ENTERPRISE. Your 1212/5. ENTERPRISE is urgently required on her proper station as soon as HAWKINS rejoins your broad pendant. Regret your proposals cannot be approved. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1741/13).

PAULKNOR
ZULU
FORESTER
FORESIGHT — To sail 1200/13, speed, route, to Gibraltar (C.in C. S.A. 1313 M/13) Sailed 1815/13 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1859 M/13).

KING NEPTUNE — My 1606/11. Arrived 12/10 (Capetown 1066 M/13).

BARHAM — Re French ratings on board (C.in C. S.A. 1137/13).

PRIMAUGUET — If PRIMAUGUET is not sighted by 1800/13 RENOWN, BARHAM, AUSTRALIA and accompanying destroyers proceed to Gibraltar (A.C.N.S.(F) 1300/13).

Convoy S L 51. — ALCANTARA will act as local escort. (C.in C. S.A. 1029/11).

Submarine report — (S.O.(I) Freetown 1718/13) See U-boat campaign.

Italian survivors — Following has been intercepted in plain language at 2156/12 G.M.T. from Coltano radio to hospital ship IBEO begins - Make arrangements to arrive in area bounded by parallels 35° 40' and 36° and between meridians 16° and 16° 40' if possible during daylight hours in order to search for survivors. After sunset proceed to Naples. Signed Cavagnari. Ends. (D.O.D. (F) 0213/13 to V.A. Malta.)

VIDO sunk — S.O.(I) Istanbul reports Yugo Slavian S.S. VIDO which left Istanbul 4/10 for Braila with 60,104 bales of jute on British account for Belgrade, now reported sunk in Russian territorial waters. Crew landed Odessa. Further information respecting pretext sought. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1125/13).

Ship now reported to have struck mine and sunk 18 miles north of Sulina. Crew landed Ismail.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 1747/13).

/ Can it be assumed ...

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Continued)

Can it be assumed that:-
(a) MALAYA should be retubed as soon as BARHAM joins your Flag.
(b) You would prefer this to be done at Durban.
(c) MALAYA should refit concurrently with retubing.
(d) You would wish to retain MANILLIES until return of MALAYA.

2. Tubes for MALAYA arrive at Durban at end of October. (D.O.D.(F) 1959/13 to C.in C. Med.)

Air reports

All time G.M.T. Aircraft carried out R.C. of Ionian Sea area. 04.00 - 07.45 hours Swordfish of 830 Squadron F.A.A. reported large patch of oil (35.50 N. 16 E.) 04.45 - 09.34 hours Glenn Martin of 431 flight at 07.00 hours signalled one destroyer and one M/V - position 39. 10 N 17.20 E. On landing reported Taranto 3 battleships - 11 cruisers and two either battleships or large cruisers also a number of small craft.
French Late course reported at 12.35 Italian Hospital ship position 35. 10 N 17 E.
(Gov. Malta 2135/13).

East Indies.

Whalers. A.O.I.C. Simonstown 1634/11. Asking for 2 whalers, asshortage of efficient local defence vessels on E.I. Station is acute (C.in C. E.I. 0704 Z/13).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. To be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as ready (A.C.N.S.(F) 1432/13)

SWARTENHONDT attacked by Raider. The following has been read:-
VRS RRRR Dutch SWARTENHONDT 3960K 2605S
(Colombo T.O.R. 1547/13.)

The following has been read:-
VRS JACOBS Natal radio from SWAARTENHONDT here only HORIZON did not change course at present not to be seen.
(C.in C. E.I. T.O.R. 1626 Z/13.)

Distress report by SWARTENHONDT have ordered CLAN MACARTHUR to continue voyage independently and KANIMBLA to proceed towards position 026° S. 038° E. to cover shipping. CERES, 8 hours notice at Durban raising steam. (C.in C. E.I. 1816 Z/13.)

/ At 1800/13 .....

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

At 1800/13 SWARTENHONDT made R R R R 039° 50' E. 026° 5' S. Jacobs W/T Station was in touch all the time. At 1834 when asked description SWARTENHONDT replied "Only on horizon. Did not change course. At present not to be seen." There was no difference in transmission noted. According to my plotting there was no ship near SWARTENHONDT at the time and I am not satisfied with this All Clear Signal meaning this was not an enemy ship, but rather that she did not attack. She appears to fall under Category (C) of your 1440 Z/30/9. It is noticeable that both this and ROTULA's report early this morning indicate same procedure.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2221/13. to C.in C. E.I.)

My 1816/13 SWARTENHONDT cancelled distress message at 1842 Z/13 CERES is reverting to previous notice for steam. (C.in C. E.I. 2242Z/13.)

Dhow traffic

Your 0616/1 and 1734/12. Specific threat to sink dhows should not repeat not be made. Imam may be informed that traffic of dhows between Yemen and Italian territory endangers his security as well as ours and must be stopped immediately, that strong measures will be taken by us and therefore dhows engaged in this traffic will incur grave danger.
2. It should not be said that no action will be taken within 10 miles of Yemen territory, but Imam should be informed that if he co-operates in supressing the smuggling of contraband by dhows our measures will be put into force at a discreet distance from the shores of the Yemen.
(Hd. of M. 2011/13, to C.in C. E.I.).

America & West Indies.

JERVIS BAY
ESPERANCE BAY
re reliefs.

Your 1651/10. No objection subject to timely relief. Change of employment beneficial to ships' companies if relieved vessels employed in home waters. Conditions of JERVIS BAY, ESPERANCE BAY, VOLTAIRE.
(C.in C. A W.I. 0932/12 to Adty.).

Convoy S.C.S.

Propose sailing 1200/15, a delay of 48 hours
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1010/13).

SAGUENAY
MARGAREE

My 1041/9 SAGUENAY will sail from Halifax a.m./16 for U.K. direct at 15 knots.
Request that MARGAREE may be sailed for Halifax so as to cross SAGUENAY in Western Approaches.
(N.S.H. Ottawa 1117/12).

/AMERICA & WEST INDIES .....

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

HAMILTON — Re defects (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1034/13).

Navigation lights on Eastern American coast. — Your 1302/12. Concur. Request you will issue necessary instructions (A.C.N.S. (T) 1803/13 to C.in C. A. W.I.).

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA — Asking date of sailing from Halifax, whether 100 troops embarked, cargo (D. of S.T. 1826/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Reply (N.S. H.Q. Ottawa 2134/13).

CHARLES L.D. — Your 1101/8. This ship should be intercepted if possible (A.C.N.S.(F) 1946/13 to C.in C. A. and W.I.).

HX Convoy. — Re typing error. Several ships sailed from Sydney before error discovered (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1004/11).

Convoys. — The final position of the standard route should not be to the eastward of R.V. position (D.T.D. 1905/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.C. N.A.)

CYMBELINE sunk by raider 2/9 — Your 1635/22/9. (Bermuda's 2300/12 stated that CYMBELINE sighted raider 0900/2/9, but R.R. from CYMBELINE intercepted at 0903/30/8.) Signed statement from 3 officer survivors of CYMBELINE states that ship was attacked at 2100/2/9. (C.in C. A. W.I. 2028/13).

New Zealand.

HAXBY. Raider. Mines off C. Agulhas. — Adty. (corrupt group) 4/9 and 1129 5/10 and 191/10 state HAXBY sunk on 24/4 and Cape Agulhas mines laid early May by same raider. Should it be assumed that this ship is in fact a raider capable of maintaining a high speed. (S.O.(I) Wellington 23062/13 to D.N.I.).

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGH.

Ships attacked.

Unknown ship

Ship attacked, intercept 0753 G.M.T. 057° 02' N. 013° 11' W. position doubtful. (C.in C. W.A. 0803/13, 0921/13, Valentia Radio 0738/13).

DAGRUN escaped

DAGRUN attacked position 56° 00' N. 8° 22' W.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 1439/13.)

At 1425 G.M.T. D.F. Bearings of DAGRUN 311° unreliable sector.
(Port Patrick 1445/13).

Am proceeding with all despatch to DAGRUN. Expect to reach her at 1715.
(WITHERINGTON 1508/13).

DAGRUN still attacked position now 5630 N 7,54 W plus GKU.
(From ? 1527/13.).

DAGRUN attacked by submarine position 056° 00' north 008° 22' west at 1439. Investigate.
(C.in C. W.A. 1531/13 to WESTON).

Still attacked torpedo exploded very near us please give me a bearing.
(DAGRUN T.O.R. 1555/13.)

Position at 1600 G.M.T. 56° 31' N. 7° 46 W. Course 150.
(DAGRUN T.O.R. 1700/13).

DAGRUN met in position 056° 007° 31' W. DAGRUN reports submarine last seen at 1530. Am remaining with her. (? SHIKARI 1750/13).

LYMINGE escaped 12/10.

My 1603/12. For British ship HEATH ABBEY read British Ship LYMINGE.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1057/13).

Submarines reported.

South Atlantic.

Norwegian S.S. VIBRAN reports as follows. Begins:- 0850 G.M.T./2 position (?054 degrees) 06' N. 027° 23' W. Officer of the watch sighted c.t. of submarine distant 4 miles. Submarine in sight only 4 minutes, quickly submerged.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1718/13).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 2 in area S.W. of Spain.
German - 1 far out in Atlantic W. of 20° W.
No recent news or whereabouts.
1 was in about 56° 30'N. 17° 30'W. at 1212/12.
1 was in 56° 20'N. 11 43' W. at 1913/12.
1 was reported in about 30'N. of Rockall at 1055/12. (D.D.I.C. 1255/13).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

More Destroyers carried out the Dover Patrol last night.

Four destroyers of 4th D.F. last night operated against enemy shipping off the South West coast of Norway. A convoy of 3 merchant ships and 2 escort vessels was destroyed off Egero.
One of the merchant ships was of about 7,000 tons and the other two of 5,000 tons; one of the latter burnt fiercely and ultimately exploded. COSSACK was hit by a shell which burst in the tiller compartment.

Force D

BERWICK, NORFOLK, FURIOUS and 4 destroyers are proceeding to operate against enemy shipping off Northern Norway. SEAWOLF has been ordered to be in position to attack any enemy warships that may be in Trondheim, should they proceed to sea to intercept Force D.

CAIRO

CAIRO is to be used for the A.A. defence of shipping in the Irish Sea and N.W. Approaches she will normally be sailed with the fast O.L. Convoys or those carrying troops and stores and will cooperate with fighter aircraft from Aldergrove.

U-Boat Sunk

TRIDENT today reports that on 8/10 she hit an enemy submarine by gunfire and presumed she sank it, off Belle Isle.

CHESHIRE Torpedoed

CHESHIRE was torpedoed this evening about 160 miles west of Bloody Foreland, whilst proceeding to Western Patrol. Assistance was sent and CHESHIRE proceeded to Clyde under her own steam.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Coastal Command last night attacked shipping at Flushing, causing violent explosions and fires, though weather conditions prevented results from being assessed.
Zeebrugge mole was also attacked; all bombs fell at the junction of the mole with the mainland railroads.

Bad weather conditions in Germany last night affected bombing operations. Bombs were dropped in the Wilhelmshaven dock area, The Deutsche Werke Ship building yards at Kiel, and the Hamburg dock area.

The Channel ports were attacked, and the Seaplane base at Nordeney. Flushing, Zeebrugge, and Dombourg were also attacked and a successful R.C. of the Namsos area was carried out.

Owing to the weather many routine patrols and other flights were cancelled or ineffective today. Little was effected by the aircraft of Bomber Command which were sent to attack the Channel ports.

Enemy Air Activity

St. Merryn R.N.A.S. Station was machine gunned this evening. There were no casualties or damage.

Mining

A mine was detonated off North Shields today. One mine was cut in the South Goodwins minefield.

The Humber was reopened early this morning; A mine was exploded and spontaneous explosio occurred during the day.

The western entrance to Hoy Sound has been swept and is now considered clear (see 30/9)

Convoys were swept through the war channel off Harwich today and two mines were found.

/Trinity.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Trinity House vessel RECULVER was mined and sunk in the entrance to the Humber this afternoon.

H.M. Trawler LORD STAMP is missing probably sunk by mine 17 miles SSW of Portland Bill at 0130/14.

Operations Against Vichy French

RENOWN and SHEFFIELD returned to Gibraltar this morning.

It is reported that the Admiral, French West Africa has proclaimed a mined area off Libreville.

Mediterranean

TRITON reports sinking one 5,000 ton DEMS escorted by two MAS off Genoa and one 3,000 ton ship in Vado Roads. Savona was bombarded and a fire, possibly the gas works, was caused in Vado. The dates of these incidents are not stated.

The French destroyer FLEURET passed Gibraltar this morning from west to east escorting two merchant ships and shortly afterwards returned westbound.

LIVERPOOL was torpedoed at 1855 today between Crete and Alexandria and was taken in tow by ORION at 1200/15. Her back appears to be broken.

East Indies

PARRAMATTA, escorting Convoy B.S. 6½ was bombed near Centre Park Island (Red Sea) this morning. No damage has been reported.

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/14 (D.C. 0201/14). At 1400/14 (D.C. 1420 and 1805/14).

Policy.

INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ESCAPADE, ECLIPSE	To be relieved by	Your 1859/13. I very much deprecate this continual shifting about of destroyers. Reasons. Gibraltar Dockyard not subject to same scale of bombing as southern yards in England. Proposing refits be carried out at Gibraltar rather than further choke Dockyards in U.K. (C.in C. H.F. 1139/14).
DUNCAN, FAME, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND		
Escort groups.		C.in C. W.A. 2101/12. Escort groups of corvettes and destroyers to be formed. Details (C.in C. W.A. 1457/14).
BERWICK or AUSTRALIA for Mediterranean.		Reply to C.in C. H.F. 1825/12. There is insufficient time to make your proposal practicable (1st S.L. 1608/4 to C.in C. H.F.)
CAIRO.		To be used for A.A. defence of shipping in Irish Sea andN.W. Approaches. Use to be made of R.D.F. and R/T to assist fighter aircraft from Aldergrove in attacking enemy aircraft. CAIRO will usually be sailed with fast O.L. convoys or those carrying troops and stores. To be based on Clyde and not to operate west of 10° W. unless air attacks further west appear likely (C.in C. W.A. 1613/14)
4.7 shell for destroyers.		Production of 4.7 inch H.E.T.F. shell for destroyers guns has now reached a satisfactory figure and the restrictions imposed by Adty. 2336/20/5 are cancelled. (Hd. of M. 2140/14).
GLASGOW		My 1656/11. It will also be necessary to strengthen Mediterranean Fleet by one large 6" Cruiser which must be ready to sail on 28th October. Taking refits and leave into consideration it would appear that GLASGOW is the most suitable. Request your remarks. (V.C.N.S. 2225/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

WALLACE — Proceed forthwith to reinforce Escort of F.N. 7 due Sheringham 0730/14. (C.in C. Rosyth 0501/14 to WALLACE). My 1830. WALLACE left F.N.7 at dark and is proceeding to Rosyth H.X.A. 77. ETA Kinnaird Head 0130/15. (C.in C. Rosyth 2044/14).

WESTON — With s.s. AGAMEMNON off Cape Wrath at 1130. Speed 10 knots. Route P. (WESTON 1142/14 to A.C.O.S.)

KING GEORGE V. (Air Protection) — Your 1910/13. Adty. will arrange this. (D.O.D.H. 1158/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Admiralty 0215/10. In view of advance in programme, arrangements have been made for ship to be passed into Basin at Rosyth on P.M. Tide at about 1700/17.

Request you report whether foremost R.D.F. mast can be struck in time to allow ship to pass under Forth Bridge accordingly.

Important that ship has no list in either direction when entering lock, C.in C. H.F. concurs.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1731/14 to KING GEORGE V).

KING GEORGE V will leave Walkers Yard Tyne at 0430/17.

(2) The following forces under command of C.S.15 will be required to cover passage to Rosyth; AA protection NAIAD, BONAVENTURE; A/S screen FAME, SIKH, MAORI, ELECTRA, BRILLIANT, BEAGLE.

(3) Following measures to be taken as a precaution against magnetic mines.

(4) Cruisers should not enter Q Z S 124 unless it is necessary to give close protection against air attack.
(C.in C. H.F. 2212/14 to C.S.15).

Dover. — Patrols for Night 14/15. (V.A. Dover 1548/14).

Rosyth Area. — Movements for Night 14/15 and Positions at 2000/14. (C.in C. Rosyth 1830/14).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Attack on Tay. My 1640/13. Now considered unlikely to take place. (V.C.N.S. 0041/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Operation P.S. (EREBUS) Will not take place tonight (C.in C. Nore 1010/14 to EREBUS.

Patrol O. To be carried out by two of 21st D.F. (C.in C. Nore 1040/14 to D.16, D.21).

Proposed Submarine operation off French West Coast Propose following operation for Night 21/22 October to attack Enemy Surface Forces leaving French West Coast ports. TUNA, TAKU, CACHALOT leave Clyde 18/10 and in position by sunrise 21st. Proposed movements. (S.2. 1052/14 to V.A.S.)

Enemy Convoy and Escort sunk. Captain (D) 4 reports that he destroyed a convoy of 3 merchant ships and 2 escort vessels in position 4 miles 270° from Egero light.

Particularly requested that no public announcement of the type of force which has achieved this result should be made as otherwise future operations will be compromised. Details follow on return of Force to harbour.
(C.in C. H.F. 1118/14 to Adty.)

My 1118/14 further details are as follows. One escorting vessel was trawler type and the other a motor boat with torpedo tubes. One Merchant ship estimated to be about 7000 tons and the other two of 2500 tons. One of the smaller ships burnt fiercely and ultimately exploded the other two ships sank. COSSACK was hit by shell which burst in ships side of tiller compartment damage repairable in about three days. On Rating wounded in that compartment was the only casualty.
(C.in C. H.F. 2214/14 to Adty.)

Straits of Dover. Weather permitting M.T.B's 70 and 5 will leave Dover at 2200/14 to operate between Boulogne and Gravelines, returning daylight 15th. (V.A. Dover 1225/14) Cancelled owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 1902/14 to Adty.)

/ Operation J.F. ....

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations. (Continued)

Operation J.F. Additional Outer Patrol Lines J and K established as follows.
Orders for Patrol Vessels and for informing them early of any friendly vessels. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1407/14 to F.O.I.C. Portland).

Adty. 1111/20/9, para. 3A(I). Request Outer Patrol Line in Portsmouth Command be amended as follows. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1437/14 to Adty.)

Iceland. Your 1830/13. Reasons for requiring 5 days for embarkation not understood. ARGUS only to embark aircraft, air-stores, and personnel. Motor Transport and other stores to be sent in M.T. ships as convenient. ARGUS will arrive Iceland P.M./21 and must sail for U.K. by P.M./23. Report if this practicable.
(5th S.L. 1712/14 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Enemy Attack on Trawler Patrol. My 1257/12. 1501/12. 1947/13 and 2113/13. LISTRAC and WARWICK DEEPING were patrolling in line ahead course west at 5 knots with LISTRAC leading. Enemy was sighted on a S.E. by bearing at a distance of 2 or 3 miles in position 180 degs. St. Catherines 10 miles at 2240/11.

Enemy opened fire on WARWICK DEEPING first whereupon LISTRAC switched on his identification lights. Fire was then opened on LISTRAC. LISTRAC was hit immediately in boiler room which caused an explosion and ship began to sink. Crew abandoned ship and survivors were picked up a.m./12th.

After WARWICK DEEPING had been hit 2 or 3 times she escaped and steamed towards the shore. Crew were compelled to abandon ship about one hour later and ship subsequently sank. Neither Trawler opened fire during the action.

Only evidence available regarding loss of chasers 06 and 07 is contained in messages received by Portsdown Hill W/T. Station and Lloyds Cottage (Portland) and from observation of gunfire by shore observers. Copy of messages is being forwarded by letter.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1807/14 to Adty.)

/ Force D. .....

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued).

Force D. (Tromso).

C.in C. Home Fleet, 1057/12. Intend to proceed in HOOD with SOMALI, MASHONA, and ESKIMO passing Hoxa at 1550/15 to join Force D during daylight 17th. If D H U phase one is delayed intend to join during daylight 18th. Route will be through positions C, B, and towards O referred to in operation D H U, passing through position 068° north 000° 40' East at 0800/17 speed of advance 15 knots.

(ii) If Force D is not met course 059° will be continued until 1300 when HOOD will reverse course along the track indicated.

(iii) If phase one has been carried out on 16th and it is apparent HOOD will not make contact during daylight 17th BERWICK is to make an immediate report by W/T using H/E giving her position course and speed.

(iv) If no signal is received in accordance with para. (iii) it will be assumed phase one has been delayed 24 hours and same procedure will be carried out on 18th October. In either case Force 'D' should steer along track O B C W and H.M.S. HOOD is to alter course as necessary closing during daylight hours. (F.O.C. 1st B.C. 2357/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

Submarines.

STURGEON.

Cancel my 1729/13. Proceed to Blyth. (V.A.S. 0124/14 to STURGEON).

C.in C. 1331/12.
(A) 7th Submarine Flotilla is at present fully occupied in providing submarines for A/S Training at Campbeltown and Tobermory and one temporarily at Scapa and also in providing submarines for training submarine commanding officers Qualifying course.

(B) The situation will improve on return of H.34 from Scapa about 24/10 and on transfer of H.28 and H.49 from Harwich to Rothesay in early November to which my 1392/3M 106 of 13/10 refers.

(C) Clyde A/S Practice areas are at present used to the full.(D) ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Continued)

(D) On increase in 7th Flotilla referred to in paragraph B. one submarine could be based at Holyhead changing round monthly and a total of 2 others could possibly be made available for Tobermory and/or Londonderry.
The margin necessary to provide for refit to repairs and time on passage is too small to guarantee the required number of Submarines being available all the time.
(V.A.S. 1118/14 to Adty.)

Re your private letter to C.S.O.(O). Agree in principle with your proposals. In view however of my 1654/13 you should concentrate on Lorient and Bordeaux. TUNA is to be kept to relieve TALISMAN to avoid a gap later on and doubtless S.7 can make use of TUNA in the meantime to assist in A/S Training. Approved to sail TAKU and CACHALOT. TAKU patrolling off Lorient and CACHALOT in the Northern Outer area proposed by you subsequently relieving PORPOISE. It is suggested that the Submarine off Bordeaux should periodically proceed about 120 miles to seaward on a line joining Gironde to a position about 20 miles North of Cape Ortegal.
(V.A.S. 1219/14 to S.2).

TIGRIS — Leave patrol P.M./15 and is being routed within 30 miles of Ushant. Am allowing her to sink at sight any M/V met South of 49° N. (V.A.S. 1641/14 to Adty.).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0700/15. (V.A.S 1652/14).

URSULA
UPRIGHT
UTMOST
to
Mediterranean. — S.S 0047. Have just been informed Admiralty has approved 3 U-Class to proceed to Mediterranean at a very early date. URSULA, UPRIGHT and UTMOST will be sent. Request URSULA be kept back from patrol and that she be prepared to sail for Gibraltar on 20th October. As much leave as possible should be given consistant with the above. Date of departure of UTMOST and UPRIGHT depends on result of propeller trials.
(V.A.S. 1334/11 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Zeebrugge. Attacked at 1955 to 2035/13. Explosions and one large fire seen. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/14).

Flushing. Aircraft of 53 Squadron to attack Oil Tanks and Shipping on Night 14/15. (H.Q.C.C. 1240/14).

Lorient. Aircraft of 59 Squadron to attack on Night 14/15. (H.Q.C.C. 1241/14).

A/S Patrol. Will be flown daily until further notice by Sunderland Aircraft from dawn for 8 to 10 hours in following area. (C.in C. Rosyth 1346/14).

S.A. 1 A. S.A.2. and 5 A. S.) Cancelled this P.M. owing to low visibility. (C.in C. Rosyth 1416/14).

Boulogne, Calais, Havre, Dunkirk, Ostend, Kiel, Flushing, Hamburg, Wilhelmshaven, Borkum, Terschelling.) Attacked by Aircraft during Night 13/14. (H.Q.F.C. 1800/14).

A/S Moonlight Patrol. Will be carried out by Sunderland leaving Invergordon 2200/14 for about 6 hours near 58° 43' N. 9°50' W. (C.in C. Rosyth 2009/14).

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

Sculcoates. One HE Bomb in Main Shed of Naval Stores Depot. Contents damaged, extent not yet assessed. (F.O. Humber 1329/14 to Adty.).

Chatham. At about 1230/14 one Bomb fell at R.N.A. Depot, Lodge Hill. Slight damage. No casualties. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1810/14 to Civil Lord).

St. Merryn. Attacked at 2130/14 by machine-gun from one Aircraft. No casualties or damage. (R.N.A.S. St. Merryn 2201/14 and 0735/15).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Humber	Open to navigation (F.O. Humber 0530/14) Spontaneous explosion 7 cables 248½° Middle L.V. (F.O. Humber 0953/14). Mine exploded by LL trawlers at 0900 in 3030 Middle L.V. 2 cables, spontaneous explosion in 157° Spurn Point 2 miles at 1340 and further explosion at 1400 on the Binks no ships near (F.O. Humber 1835/14).
Harwich.	Fleet sweepers swept F.N. convoy through 148 Q Z S from N.E. Swin L.V. to 2 evening 13/10 one mine exploded in sweep (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0857/14) Fleet sweepers swept F.S. Convoy through 148 Q.Z.S. from 2 to junction of 7 Q.Z.F. One mine picked up in sweep. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1627/14).
Dover.	North Goodwin nothing found (V.A. Dover 1205/14). One mine cut 1½ miles 260° South Goodwin L.V. (V.A. Dover 1811/14)
North Shields.	Ground magnetic mine detonated 72° Roker Pier Lt. 10.5 cables at 1215 (F.M.S.O. North Shields (1253/14)
DANUBE III mined 13/10.	Technical details of VANITY's course (C.in C. Nore 1453/14)
REOULVER sunk.	Trinity House vessel damaged by underwater explosion in 195° Spurn Pt. Lt. Ho. 1.2 miles. Explosion took place 30 ft. on port beam. Vessel now sunk in approx. 3 cables N.W. of No. 4 Buoy in Northern Examination Anchorage (F.O. Humber 1513/14 1837/14).
Operation B.S. 41.	In my 1830 read B.S.41 14 miles N.E. Spurn Pt. (C.in C. Rosyth 1945/14).
Hoy Sound.	My 1603/30/9. Western entrance to Hoy Sound has been swept and is considered clear. (A.C.O.S. 1959/14)
Acoustic mines.	Conditions to be observed by destroyers under way when in waters likely to be acoustically mined and when not proceeding larger vessels (C.in C. Nore 2154/14).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Photographic R.C.	Norway, France, Holland, Belgium. 12/10, 13/10 (H.Q.C.C. 0905/14).
Brest, Lorient.	Results of examination of photographs. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1000/14).
One small vessel.	Following remains unidentified. Begins: Scapa W/T from Fair Isle one small slow vessel bearing 272 degrees distance 10 miles course 225 degrees speed 8 knots foggy 0835/12 Ends. (A.C.O.S. 1024/14).
Trondheim.	R.C. 13/10. (V.A. (S) 1553/14).
Terschelling) Calais)	Shipping seen during Night 13/14. (H.Q.B.C. 1800/14).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FOWEY. Steering Engine out of action. Hand steering satisfactory while in company with other ships.
(FOWEY 0002/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

PERIWINKLE. Reports W/T transmitter out of action and is proceeding Liverpool with HMINA. (CLARKLA 0015/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

DARTFORD
JERSIK KARNSK } British Ships ex Convoy O.B.M. 228 S. arrived Belfast Lough 0930 with collision damage.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1020/14 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys

Shipping.

H.X. 78. To alter course, (C.in C. W.A. to ANTHONY, etc., 2060/14).

H.X. 77 A. Time of arrival Kinnaird Head. (C.in C. Rosyth 2044/14).

O.G. 44. Route amended (C.in C. W.A. 1619/14).

F.N. 7. WALLACE to meet and escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 0537/14, 0956/14)

O.B.M. 228. DARTFORD and JESSIE MAERSK arrived Belfast, collision (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1029/14.)

S.C.8. SANDWICH arrived 13/10. Convoy sails 1200/15. Delay of 48 hours. (D.T.D.1018/14).

O.A.229. List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0931/14) Escort JASON, HIBISCUS, CORROPSIS (N.C.S.O. Methil 0905/14).

O.L.8. HIGHLANDER and HAVELOCK to sail with. (C.in C. W.A. 1117/15).

S.C.7. Route. (D.T.D., 1241/14).

H.X.81. Escort VOLTAIRE sailing 16/10 and returning Halifax. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1632/14).

B.H.X. 82. Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.D.E. Bermuda, 1201/14).

O.G.44. Sailing telegram. (C.in C. W.A. 2100/14) Amend route. (D.T.D. 1115/14).

S.L.F. 82. Ocean route. (D.T.D. 1617/14).

H.X. 79. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1809/14).

O.B. 231. Route (D.T.D. 1116/14).

S.C.6. ENCHANTRESS reports NORA did not sail. (D.T.D., 1114/14)

O.B. 230. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1005/14).

Troop Convoys

B.A.S. 4. Position, steering for Reykjavik. (W.A.S. 1102/14). Routed direct from Stornoway to Reykjavik. (A.C.O.S. 1202/14).

French M.V's. .....

MOST SECRET.

14.10.19 0.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Troop Convoys — Shipping. (Continued).

French M.V's — Your 1236/8. French N.A. should be informed no escort being provided for 4 French M.V's from North Ireland to U.K., but they should pass through (route). Essential Admty. be informed when vessels sailing. (Rd. of M. to N.A. Washington, 1636/14).

SVEADROTT
CASTOR — Your 1745/8. Re route your para 2, an answer has been given to Swedish Legation in London. No enquiry re. CASTOR has reached Admiralty. While no objections to CASTOR accompanying SVEADROTT to U.S., Admiralty is not prepared to give any assurances about a return voyage for either SVEADROTT or CASTOR.
(1631/14 Head of M. (68) to N.A. Stockholm)

Route for Neutrals. — Neutral ships may be sent between South and West coasts of U.K. via 105 Q.E.Y. Master to be given a route designed to disguise the simple nature of the gap. An officer is to be placed on board for the passage, not to navigate the ship but solely to ensure that the Master adheres strictly to route ordered.
(D.T.D. 1830/14).

Need for Group Sailings. — Your 2017/13 and 1407/14. Experience here confirms information of future movements often received too late to enable patrols and other ships concerned to be warned.
Owing to weather etc. movements of small vessels, both Naval and Merchant, cannot be foretold with accuracy. For these reasons, considered that if patrols are to shoot at sight all ships must be sailed in escorted groups.
(C.in C. W.A. 2115/14 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

French Shipping

Gibraltar 1100/14. French destroyer FLEURET escorting ALICE ROBERT, MONTAIGNE passed from W. to E. 1120, FLEURET returned westbound (S.O.I., Gib. 1229/14)

French Prisoners

C. in C., S.A., 1845N/9 and 1137N/13. Request instructions re disposal. Detention on shore at Gibraltar highlyinconvenient. (F.O.C.N.A., 1150/14 to Adty.)
Your 1150/14. C. in C., S.A., 1845/9 and 2113/13 refer. French crew are to be detained as hostages until agreement reached for return of our 5 F.A.A. personnel and emissaries of de Gaulle held at Dakar. (Hd. of M., 1025/14)
5 Officers and 62 men of French Submarine AJAX sunk off Dakar are arriving shortly at Gibraltar and will be held as hostages for the eturn of the emissaries of de Gaulle and 3 Officers and 2 men of the F.A.A. detained at Dakar. C. in C., South Atlantic on 3rd October proposed the exchanged to Governor General of Dakar, who referred to Vichy, but no reply has yet been received. Request you ask French N.A. to take up urgently question of exchange with French Admiralty on basis of the proposal made by C. in C.,, South Atlantic. (hd. of M. 2024/14 to N.A. Madrid Your 0021/4 (not to F.O.C.N.A.) 1845/9 and 1137/13. In order to accelerate negotiatio French Admiralty is being approached throug N.A. Madrid. Request you state the proposa made by you to Governor General, Dakar and number of de Gaulle's men whom it is desire to recover in addition to the 5 British named in your 0021/4.(Hd. of M. 1016/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

Vichy Areas

Report No 1. Gaboon. Only still held for Vichy area inclusive Libreville, Njolo, Lamgarane-Gentil. Also Mitzie as small isolated place. Advance by Free French Ovum to Boua proceeding. Reliably informe Admiral French W. Africa has proclaimed a mined area off Libreville. (G.O.C., W. Afr to W.O., 1300/13, recd. from W.O., 2120/14

French Shipping

Your 1849/12 para 3. Not clear what reference is meant as there is no (c) in my 1957/5. Also does this instruction apply generally or to the particular patrol referred to in rest of signal.Ref. (b) of my 1957/5. It is assumed any warships escorting merchant ships to West African ports south of Dakar should be turned back with Merchant ships if force is sufficient to do so, the Merchant ship not being otherwise interfered with, this was intended. (C. in C., S.A. 1353/14 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd

Cruiser Patrol

Your 1849/12. D Class Cruisers carrying out centre patrol from Freetown would have four days on patrol allowing 22% for high speed if required but could make one turn round fuelling at St. Vincent Cape Verde Islands, giving two five day patrols. Consider patrol if placed should be on northern route extending about 40 miles nearer coast than suggested. Presence of patrol would soon be known once ships were intercepted or by air reconnaissance which now extends almost daily to Freetown. Air Forces at Dakar recently reported increased. If patrol and object became known possibility of air or submarine action or Cruiser being sent out to release ships detained. No support available Freetown and a weak force on patrol might invite reprisals. Desirable to route convoy west of Cape Verde Island while Patrol was in operation. For traffic across Atlantic recommend A.M.C. patrolling 500-600 miles to west of Dakar north or south of Cape Verde Islands and for route from north an 8 inch Cruiser with two or more Destroyers or in any case an 8 inch Cruiser to support D. class. Cruiser's aircraft would be of great importance. (C. in C., S.A., 1731/14 to Adty.)

North Atlantic

German M.V's

Reported some German merchant ships may leave Vigo tonight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2121/14)

RENOWN

Propose revert to 6 hours notice for 56 hours from 0001/15 etc., (S.O.Force H., 0901/14) Approved (D.O.D. (F) 1210/14)

Gibraltar Aircraft

In event of Gibraltar becoming untenable as a base proposed to Air Ministry by O.C. R.A.F. Gibraltar that aircraft of 200 group should be flown to Malta and thence on to Egypt and that personnel should be evacuated to follow via Takoradi. Since under above conditions cable ship MIRROR will also have to leave, propose she should embark about 200 of these R.A.F. for passage to Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1154/14 to Adty.)

STARLING

Your 1912/12. Aircraft which attacked SS STARLING considered more likely to have been a German long range 4 engined Fokker Wulf operating from Bordeaux. (D.D.I.C. to F.O.C.N.A., 1802/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

MALOJA
ESPERANCE BAY

My 1657/10. To exchange duties from midnight 15-16/10. Destinations. (D.O.D. (F) 1254/14)

BRECONSHIRE

C. in C. S.A., 1107N/6. Arrived Capetown 14/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1803Z/14)

Mediterranean

PARTHIAN
Attacked

PARTHIAN reports unsuccessfully attacked in 33.23 N., 21.55 E at 2015/12 presumably by submerged submarine. 2 torpedoes fired and avoided. Stresses vital importance of efficient zigzag on moonlight nights. (Capt. S. 1. 0005/14)

Air
Reconnaissance

Results 12/10 by 230 Sqdn. to locate enemy forces in E. Med. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1148/14)

PANDORA

Cancel exercise. Proceed on patrol keeping well clear of trawlers on U/B hunt. SIDONIS join hunt. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria 1431/14 to PANDORA)

BERWICK
GLASGOW

My 1653/11. On completion of operation with Force D. BERWICK to cease to be a unit of Home Fleet. To proceed Mediterranean (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1628/14 to C. in C., H.F.) My 1655/11. Also necessary to strengthen Med. Fleet by one large 6" cruiser which must be ready to sail (date) Appear GLASGOW most suitable. (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C., H.F., 2225/14)

Air
Operations

R.A.F. Operational Summary No 126 period ending 1200/14.
13/10. 0230- 0310 hours. 1 Bombay 216 Squadron assisted sloop LADYBIRD in night bombardment of Italian positions Sidi Barrani by dropping flares over target area. Heavy bombs and incendiaries also dropped on position to coincide with bombardment, numerous fires caused. 1830 hours, 2 Blenheims 211 Squadron attacked military and naval buildings along north foreshore Tobruk harbour from 15,000 feet by night, their bombs falling on north side of town and near oil tanks. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1147/14)

/Coming Operations..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Coming Operations

Admty. 1911/10. This can be done. Proposals and plans. (C. in C., Med., 1421/14) See Mediterranean Volume.

Operation M.B. 6. 8-14/10

Long report of operation period 8/10-14/10. All available ships including all 4 battleships. Convoy of 4 M.V's with Malta supplies escorted by 2 A/A cruisers and 4 destroyers.
MALAYA possibly attacked by submarine 33.11 N 27.20 E at 0530/9.
Submarine sighted by aircraft 36.31 N., 20.20 E., at 1100/10 and 35.37 N., 19.54 E at 1430/10. Former severely depth charged, almost certainly damaged by VAMPIRE. Convoy arrived 8 hour late at 1600/11. IMPERIAL mined off Hard Bak (my 1156/11) COVENTRY cut a mine withbparavane on way in. Attack on Tripoli had to be cancelled.
Convoy ex-Malta with escort sailed 2100/12, PLUMLEAF, VOLO and APHIS. AJAX action with destroyers 0230/12. Aircraft reported Fleet 0815/12. Bombing attacks made 1230 to 1600 up to 50 aircraft. No damage. AJAX and 2 destroyers detached at 0700/13 to escort A.D. 4.from Algean. ILLUSTRIOUS, 2 of 3rd C.S. and 4 destroyers detached noon/13 for moonlight air attack on Port Lago. Surprise achieved. All aircraft returned. (C. in C., Med., 1045/14, amended 2304/14)

Spain

Biweekly report. Situation clearer. (N.A. Madrid, 1915/14)

LIVERPOOL Torpedoed

Torpedoed at 1855/14 (see 15/10)

Operations. Press Communique

Intend issuing following to Press tomorrow 15/10.
(2) Our Naval Force whilst operating off Malta made contact withnenemy about 80 miles S.E. of Sicily at 0230/12.
(3) AJAX sighted 3 of Italian Destroyer IAKUNE Class of destroyers at this time and sank 2 outright.
Shortly afterwards sighte a large cruiser and four destroyers. She crippled one of these destroyers but lost touch in darkness with remainder who made off

/Supporting.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operations
Press Communique
Contd.

Supporting Cruiser came to help of AJAX and assisted by aircraft found the damaged Destroyer at dawn in tow of a companion who had gallantly come to her assistance. Towing Destroyer then slipped tow and escaped at high speed toward Sicily under cover of smoke.
(4) Damaged ship was latest Class of Large Italian Destroyers and was Italian Destroyer ARTIGLIERE. On arrival of YORK, ARTIGLIERE started to abandon ship and after allowing a further ½ hour for this process ship was sunk by our fire.
(5) Boats and rafts for survivors were supplemented by rafts from H.M.S. YORK and Wireless Message was broadcast on the commercial wave to Italian Station giving the position of Survivors, though this compromised position of the British Fleet. Weather was fine and Sicily at no great distance and experience at sinking of Italian Cruiser BARTOLOMEO COLLEONE on 19/7 when our rescuing destroyers were bombed by Italian Air Force and one of them damaged made it unjustifiable for our ships to take any further measures particularly in view of close proximity of Italian Air Concentrations and presence of submarines.
(6) During this spirited and successful action AJAX had few casualties and only superficial damage above waterline which is quickly repairable whilst ship continuing her work with fleet.
(7) Following on this action the enemy attacked our fleet with aircraft over a period of four hours. There were no hits or damage but four enemy Aircraft were shot down by our FIghters and gunfire for certain and two more were probably also destroyed. All our aircraft returned.
(8) F.A.A. attacked Port Lago in Dodecanese at about 2300/13 achieving complete surprise barracks, workshops, hangers and a petrol tank were hit and set on fire. All our Aircraft returned. (C. in C., Med. 1200/14)

Operation.
TRITON
LADYBIRD

TRITON reports sinking one 5000 ton D.E.M.S. escorted by two M.A.S. off Genoa and one 3,000 ton ship in Vado Roads. Savona bombarded fire in Vado possibly from gas works. Date of the incident not yet known.

/LADYBIRD.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation.
TRITON
LADYBIRD.Contd.

LADYBIRD in co-operation with R.A.F. bombing attacked Sid Barrani and carried out a successful night bombardment at 0230/13. (3) Intend issuing the following communique:- "During the period 1-14/10 one of our naval units successfully attacked and bombarded military objectives in the port of Savona. Also a submarine sank a 5000 ton supply ship off Genoa and a 3000 ton ship in Vado Road. On the night of 12-13/10 a naval unit working in co-operation with the R.A.F. successfully bombarded enemy concentrations at Sidi Barrani" (C. in C., Med. 1053/14)

East Indies

Djibuti
Supplies

Consul informs Governor Aden "Train arrived at Djibuti from Ethiopia 9/10 with 60 tons grain 40 tons flour, 5 tons vegetable oil. Same evening train left for Ethiopia contents not yet known but reported to be coal and oil" Italian delivery possibly or confidence in early military successes to relieve situation in Ethiopia. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 0804Z/14)

Red Sea
Dhows

Admty 2011/13. Not clear whether action against dhows proposed my 0616/1 may be taken as from 17/10. (C. in C., E.I., 0620Z/14)

EUTHALIA

My 1058/11 (increased number of Greek ships calling at Lourenco Marques) and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1420/14. Greek EUTHALIA sailed for Capetown due 20/10. (C. in C., E.I., 0624/14)

PARRAMATTA
Air Escort

PARRAMATTA escorting B.S. 6½ bombed 5 miles S. of Centre Peak Island, Red Sea, 0845Z/14. No damage reported. (C. in C., E.I., 1056/14)

Air Report

(No Naval incidents) 12/10 and 13/10. S.A.A.F. made extensive reconnaissances over enemy territory and coastal patrols Mombasa and Zanzibar. No enemy movements observed. One warship escorted in Mombasa. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1150/14)

B.S. 6½

Intelligence Summary No 124 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 14/10. 2 S. 81's or possibly JU 52's approached convoy B.S. 6½ near Zubair Island 15° N 42° E., but abandoned incipient attack on encountering 1 Blenheim 4 203 Squadron which twice

/Attacked...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies--Contd.

B.S. 6½ Air Escort, Contd. — attacked 1 firing 1300 rounds with no observed damaged. Attack broken off at 150 yards. 2 Blenheim 4's 203 Squadron kept fight patrol over convoy B.S. 6½ 0315 to 0450 and 0 0704 to 1115. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Aden 1729/14)

China

FALCON — My 0535/23/9. Do not intend to lay up FALCON at present. (C. in C., China, 0251/14)

DUMONT D'URVILLE — French sloop, arrived 13/10 Saigon (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0833Z/14)

Japan — Your 0449/6 para (a) Request consideration to an upper limit of 3,000 tons and a Northern limit of Hong Kong.
Concur with your intended policy and para (f) If diversion becomes necessary, any further signal from Admiralty will be confined to instructing you to bring your policy into effect. (D.T.D., 1159/14 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

Troop Transport — Your 2216/23 and my 1121/26. Military would appreciate information re situation regarding ships and escort for approx. 6,000 troops. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1134/14)

M.V's to be lighted — Your 1803/13. Following may be promulgated to all British Merchant vessels by Admty. letter message:-
British Merchant ships in areas 8 and 10 when on coastal route of North or South America are to burn navigation lights at normal brilliance and proceed undarkened. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1251/14)

Australia

CHINA — Panamanian tanker from Bahrein 22/7 to Fremantle, not arrived. (A.C.N.B., 0145Z/14)
My 0145. CHINA arrived 14/10 (A.C.N.V. 1222/14)

New Zealand

Raider — Your 2306/Z/13. Now known raider which sank HAXBY did not lay mines off Cape Agulhas. Maximum speed of raiders not likely to exceed 16 or 17 knots (D.D.I.C. to S.O.I. Wellington 1852/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Vigo — Reported some German ships may leave Vigo tonight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2121/14, D.D.I.C., 1925/14, V.A.S. to submarines on patrol, area B 2149/14)

CERRICO — A. 2. report from Guayaquil, will sail this week for Japan, Japanese flag being hoisted outside territorial waters. (S.O.I., Callao, 1847/14)

EISENACH — My 1158/12. Coal bunkers not obtainable at Manzanillo, Mexico, but small quantity available if 10 days notice given. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1021/14)

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LOGICIAN (Escaped 25/9) — Master of LOGICIAN Harrison reports that 2310 G.M.T. 25/9 in position 054° 53' 010° 22' shortly after MANCHESTER BRIGADE was torpedoed vessel struck submerged object possibly submarine.

EMPIRE OCELOT (Escaped 28/9) — 28/9, 1350, 054° 58' 021° 50' EMPIRE OCELOT in convoy torpedoed 1400 sighted periscope starboard quarter 1000 yards opened fire fourth round appeared to hit 1510 intercepted wireless message submarine on the surface 054° 50' 021° 51'. Examination carried out by local diver who reported paint scraped off three places on either side of keel guard, scoring 4 feet by 4 inches plating apparently undamaged vessel making no water. Master requests owners be informed. (Reporting Off Barbados. 1815/14)

ORAO — My 1600/12. Crew of ORAO and armed guard from HOTSPUR landed Gibraltar. No casualties. (F.O.C.N.A., 1553/14)

H.M.S. CHESHIRE Torpedoed — Explosion on board, position 55.13 N., 13.02 W. (CHESHIRE, 1931Z/14) Struck by torpedo. My position, course and speed at commencement of current watch 55.13 N., 13.02 W., 254°., 10 knots. (CHESHIRE, 1940Z/14 to Lands End Radio) Struck by torpedo starboard side forward at 1930 G.M.T. position course and speed 55.13 N., 13.10 W., 116° 8 knots. (CHESHIRE, 2006/14 to C. in C., W.A.,) Tugs SUPERMAN and SEAMAN to intercept and escort. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2236/14) My position course and speed are 55.04 N., 12.40 W., 080°, 6 knots. No casualties. (CHESHIRE, 2359/14)

H.M.S. LIVERPOOL — Torpedoed at 1855/14 by a/c (see 15/10 Mediterranean)

PARTHIAN — Attacked 9015/12. (See Mediterranean)

HURUNI — Sunk by torpedo 2315/14. (See 15/10)

DOURO — Stopped by U-Boat 1940/1[illegible] (See submarines reported)

EMPIRE AUDACITY — Contacted by aircraft 1110/14 in 53.29 N., 4.15 W., course 088° speed 10 knots. No apparent damage or list. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1225/14)

/EMMA BAKKE.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

EMMA BAKKE (Torpedoed 11/10) Incorrectly reported, on 15/10.	Contacted by aircraft 0902/14 in 53.32 N., 4.10 W., course 090° speed 10 knots. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1225/14)
Convoys, Surface Attacks	Analysis of U-Boat attacks made on ships actually in convoy show that during August 10 convoys were attacked, 7 by night and 3 by day. During September 9 convoys were attacked 7 by night and 2 by day. In only 4 of the 14 night attacks was any Asdic contact made by escorting ships. These figures do not include attacks on stragglers. On evidence available, conclusion reached is that U-Boats probably close on surface preferably on bow of convoy relying on small silhouette to escape detection and top surface speed to effect retreat. U-Boats in other words are being used at Torpedo Boats. Attack is probably pressed as close home as considered safe bu possibility of use of long range slow speed torpedo exists. D.A./S.W. 2027/14)

Submarines Reported

1605	D.F. 59° N., 10° W at 1605 (C. in C., W.A. 1653/14)
1709	D.F. 55° N.,-55° 30' N., 12°-13° W., probable U-Boat unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1804/14)
1926	Air reconnaissance today reports submarine in Namsen Fiord, 64.30 N., 11.20 E., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1926/14)
1700	U-Boat in 55½30 N., 12.30 W., at 1700/14 may be shadowing you. (C. in C., W.A., 1753/14 t ABERDEEN)
2031	55.13 N., 13.02 W., reliable fix. (A.C.W.A., 2119/14) (CHESHIRE torpedoed)
1940/12	Portuguese fishing boat DOURO stopped 12/10 1940, by U-Boat 35.52' N., 10.35' W., and allowed to proceed. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1819/14)
1940	In Fair Island Channel or N. of Shetlands, very indefinite. (D.S. 406)

/Estimated.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 2 between Spain and Azores, no recent news.
German : 1 somewhere about 43° North 16° West at 0410/14.
1 in about 54 ° North 20° West at 1108/14.
1 in area 57° North to 58° North. 16° to 19° West at 0207/14
1 in Eastern part of N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1243/14)

Submarines Attacked

0539/8 Submarine Sunk

TRIDENT reports at 0539/8 in position 047° 28' N., 003° 25' W 500 ton U-Boat hit by gunfire and presumed sunk. Enemy course 345°. Considerable anti-submarine surface activity with air cooperation 1 /10 and 12/10 by armed trawlers and "E" boats towing sweeps. (V.A.S. 2311/14)

1350/28 — By EMPIRE OCELOT (See Ships Attacked)

Assessments

Best method of assessing enemy U-Boat losses has been under consideration.
In Home Waters and Atlantic operations final assessment is made by a committee at Admiralty. This system will continue.
In Mediterranean and East Indies operations it appears probable more evidence is available to the C. in C., than to Admiralty Committee and it is therefore felt that final assessment should rest with him.
Subject to your concurrence this system will be adopted.
To bring Admiralty records up to date, report requested of your final assessment of all attacks carried out since the outbreak of war with Italy. (D.A.S.W., 2028/14 to C. in C's Med. and E.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation D.H.

HOOD and 3 destroyers left Scapa 1600 today to R.V. with Force D. in 68° N., 0° 40' E., at 0800/17 and cover the operation of FURIOUS, NORFOLK and BERWICK off the coast of Norway.

"R" Boats off Dover

At 1242 today 6 "R" boats were seen proceeding westward about 9 miles off Dover, and were later fired at by the batteries, but all rounds fell short.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night attacked Havre, docks at Hamburg and Emden.

Owing to unfavourable weather Bomber Command carried out no operations today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S. 8 was bombed off the Thames Estuary this morning. No report of damage has been received.

Convoy F.S. 9 was bombed this morning in the Thames Estuary, but was undamaged.

Damage was caused at the London Docks this morning and again this evening.

The R.V.Y. Deptford was damaged this evening.

Mining

Operation B.S. 41 TEVIOT BANK escorted by 2 destroyers laid mines today in the East Coast Mine Barrier.

MISTLETOE (Parachute Patrol vessel) was mined and sunk off the entrance to the Humber this morning.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated last night off the East Coast.

Mines were found off South Goodwin Light Vessel and off Falmouth.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

C. in C., S.A. reports that TOUAREG has arrived at Duala and is now under Free French guard.

Mediterrancan

A Sunderland proceeded this morning to search for submarine REGENT possibly proceeding on the surface and unable to dive, south of Zante. REGENT was not located.

A French aircraft landed at Kalafranca this morning. The pilot stated that he was one of two being flown to join RICHELIEU, to which they belonged.
Search was carried out for the missing plane without success.

On the night 13/14 R.A.F. attacked Benghazi. Amongst other targets hit was a ship alongside the Molo d'Italia, the 1 largest ship in the harbour.

R.A.F. yesterday attacked Bardia. Results were not observed.

East Indies

Blenheims today bombed Diredawa.

A convoy in Perrim Straits was attacked today by 3 Italian aircraft. The attack was repulsed by the Blenheim escort. One enemy aircraft was probably destroyed.

MOST SECRET

15.10.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Escort Groups — My 1457/14. For ST MARYS read BRIGHTON (C. in C., W.A., 1053/15 to Capt D. Liverpool)

2nd Towns Flotilla — 382. Your 1840/14. Propose that BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS and ST MARY'S of second Towns flotilla should join R.A.M.L. after working up at Scapa and that WHITEHALL, VANSITTART, WITHERINGTON and VISCOUNT should then return to the Western Approaches Command for escort duty. (C. in C., W.A., 110[illegible]/15 to Adty.)

1. Concur; that when ready for sea BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS and ST. MARYS should be sailed for Scapa to be worked up, after which they should join R.A.M.L. as permanent escort force.

2. WHITEHALL, VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON should then rejoin 17th D.F. for escort duties as detailed by C. in C., W.A.

3. VISCOUNT should on completion of repairs rejoin 11th D.F.
(D.O.D.H. 1600/15 to C. in C., W.A)

Patrol Groups in Channel. — Your 2115/14. Off-shore patrols in the Portsmouth Command are I think more liable to tip-and-run owing to short distance from Cherbourg. Off-shore patrols are being moved further from coast clear of traffic routes as stated in my 1407/14

All Merchant Shipping sailed to East or West from Portsmouth is escorted except for small vessels that hug the coast.

The only drawback, therefore, in the Portsmouth Command is that our own forces may be sent out to operate and cross patrol lines before the patrol craft receive a signal. There are, however, two gaps each four miles in width (see 3rd para. of my 1407/14) through which our forces could pass in an emergency. It is a question of balancing.

The enemy have now tasted blood and will no doubt repeat their recent operation unless we take steps to counter it and I can think of no other counter than operating patrols in groups with orders to shoot at sight.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1533/15 to C. in C., W.A.)

/HOOD.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy-Contd.

HOOD

Adty's. 1830/8. HOOD will not be taken in hand for the present. (V.C.N.S. 1555/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

Northern Patrol Request for 5 T.B.D's.

Between 22/8 and 16/10. Northern and Western Patrol sailings were out 17, in 16, total o 33, of which 10 only have been escorted and 4 of these escorts were due to A.M.C's carrying troops or joining a troop convoy.

I estimate Patrol Escort requirements would provide full time employment for 5 T.B.D's and suggest that this number be allocated to my command for this purpose.

The first O.B.V's coming into service will be sailed out with convoys but difficulty may occur in joining them up with convoys for in escort. (F.O.C.N.P., 1818/15 to C. in C., H.F.

GLASGOW

Your 2225/14. (Cruiser for Mediterranean Fleet Concur that GLASGOW is the most suitable ship. (C. in C., H.F. 1837/15 to Adty.)

Destroyers for Mediterranean Fleet

Your 1139/14 and my 0118/1.
It has now been decided to reinforce C. in C., Mediterranean with BARHAM and four modern destroyers.
2. INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ECLIPSE and ESCAPADE were sent out with BARHAM at short notice. First 3 now due for refit, repair, or are damaged.
3. It was therefore decided to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet with four of the 13th D.F, replacing them from Home Waters.
4. FAME, FOXHOUND, and FEARLESS were proposed in order to concentrate the "F" Class at Gibraltar.
5. It is desired to repair FORESIGHT at home owing to the difficulty of completely refitting W/T installation at Gibraltar. She will subsequently rejoin Force H.
6. Reference F.O.C.N.A's 1746/1, as Capt.D.3. and INGLEFIELD were required in the Home Fleet by your 1005/2/10, DUNCAN was proposed as leader of 13th D.F.
KEPPEL's endurance is too low for service with Force H, with which 13th D.F. have to operate. (A.C.N.S.H. 2237/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 0200/15. (D.C. 0150/15) At 1400/15 (D.C. 1401/15)

Movements

KING GEORGE V "UNION" — Asking for fighter protection for her, escorted by 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers from Tyne to Firth of Forth 0430/17- 1300/17. Code word "UNION" (A.C.N.S.(H) 1011/15) Orders for destroyers for acoustic sweep (C. in C., Rosyth, 1545/15, C. in C., H.F. 1838/15)

BOUCLIER — Sailing postponed for 24 hours owing to weather (C. in C., W.A. 1035/15)

REVENGE "BOARD" — Intend to sail, escorted by WANDERER, WITCH VOLUNTEER, BURZA from Spithead at 1830/15 for Plymouth. Code word "BOARD" (C. in C., Portsmouth 1223/15)

Portsmouth — Night movement signal (1233/15, 1850/15)

Dover — Patrols tonight (V.A.Dover 1508/15, 1906/15)

Orknets — Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/15, 1909/15)

Northern Patrol — Trawler line tonight (A.C.O.S. 1536/15)

Western Channel — Night report (C. in C., W.A. 1545/15)

CAMITO — Leave Clyde 19/10 for Area M.3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1720/15)

Nore — S.O.Patrol (C. in C., Nore, 1750/15)

Corvettes for Convoy Escort Groups — Alloted as follows (Capt D. Liverpool, 1815/15) Following additional destroyers available (C. in C., W.A., 1903/15)

HIGHLANDER HAVELOCK — Position, course, speed. (HIGHLANDER 2310/15)

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland. Your 1712/14. (Withdrawal of Walrus aircraft). This is practicable, given fine weather. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0940/15 to Adty.).

A/M. 2028/7. It has now been decided that no troops will be sent in ARGUS. (D.O.D.H. 1502/15 to ARGUS).

1. ARGUS will be required to sail from Clyde P.M. 18.
2. She will proceed to Reykjavik to embark 701 squadron.
3. Essential she be sailed from Iceland to arrive Clyde by 26/10.
4. Destroyer escort will be required to accompany ARGUS and return with her.
5. C.in C. H.F. requested to provide at least one destroyer.
6. C.in C. W.A. requested to provide 2 destroyers and to sail and route ships. (D.O.D. H. 1649/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

Sinking of Enemy Convoy on 14/10. My 2214/14. On evidence of 2 experienced R.N.R. Officers it is now considered that smaller ships were of 5000 tons displacement. E/V's made considerable use of smoke apparatus. (C.in C. H.F. 1024/15 to Adty.)

KING GEORGE V. Operation S.A. Zero Time 1050/17. (KING GEORGE V, 1410/15 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Operation P.S. EREBUS. Carry out operation tonight. Zero time 001/16. EREBUS and Destroyers sail from Sheerness at 1700/15. Code Word ADAPT. (C.in C. Nore 1046/15 to EREBUS, D. 21). Destroyers taking part CAMPBELL, WALPOLE, GARTH. (C.in C. Nore 1426/15 to Adty.)

M.T.B's off Belgian Coast. Weather permitting M.T.B's 14and 16 are to operate off Belgian Coast from Nieuport to Flushing tonight starting from Nieuport at 0001/16. Any vessel met East of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 1114/15 to BEEHIVE)

Western Channel Patrol. Patrol B.Y. (C.in C. W.A. 1513/15 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Force D. (Tromso) My 1653/12. HOOD and 3 Destroyers left Scapa 1600/15 proceeding West of Shetlands to R/V with Force D at 0800/17 in 68° N. 0° 40' E. (V.A.S. 1603/15 to SEAWOLF).

/ R-Boats .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued).

R-Boats shelled from Dover.

At 1242 today six "R" Boats were seen on a bearing 119° Dover about 9 miles proceeding westward. 14 rounds fired from Citadel Battery between 1305 and 1315 and 4 rounds from Langdon Battery at 1425. All fell short. (V.A. Dover 2237/15 to Adty.).

Submarines.

L. 23
H. 34.

C.in C. Rosyth is requested to provide escort for L 23 from Dundee to Scapa and A.C.O.S. is requested to provide escort for H 34 to Rothesay.

L 23 will be ready to leave Dundee 20/10 and H 34 should leave Scapa on arrival of L 23.

WHITE BEAR is not available owing to other commitments.
(V.A.S. 1119/15 to A.C.O.S.)

V.A.S. 1119/15. Request Home Fleet Destroyer escort may be provided. If no Destroyer is available intend that L 23 should be sailed to join O.A. 232 leaving Methil Sunday 20th October.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1733/15 to C.in C. H.F.).

UNIQUE

To be sailed for Portsmouth when ready for service and when Escort can be arranged from Clyde to Falmouth.
(V.A.S. 1121/15 to S.2.)

URSULA

Adty. 1335/12. Request you sail URSULA on 20th for Mediterranean. (V.A.S. 1122/15 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

TIGRIS

My 1431/11. Proceed within 30 miles of Ushant. R/V with CUTTY SARK at 0700/18. Route. (Capt. S.2. 1426/15 to TIGRIS)

You are to sink at sight any M/V encountered south of 49° North.
(Capt. S.2 1823/15 to TIGRIS).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/16.
(V.A.S. 1648/15 and 1804/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

S A. 1 E. and S A. 2 H. — Patrols cancelled owing to low visibility. (C.in C. Rosyth 1012/15 to Adty.).

Patrol H D. — Ending at dusk every day, to be flown to cover Eastern Approaches to Fair Island Channel to depth of about 40 miles, with object of attacking U-Boats passing Westwards through Channel at night. (A.C.O.S. 1696/15 to Hatston.)

U-Boats at Bordeaux. — Request you arrange heavy Bomber attack at early opportunity on 9 U-Boats at Bordeaux. Order of effort 12 to 14 sorties. (Air Ministry 1737/15 to Bomber Command).

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth. — At 2316/14 a single Aircraft dropped 4 H.E. Bombs in harbour, and incendiary Bombs in harbour and at Whale Island. No apparent damage or casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0308/15 to Adty.) At 0253/15 incendiary Bomb caused small small five in Adty. Seasoning Yard at Flathouse. No damage reported. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0422/15 to Adty.) Slight damage at Whale Island. Estimate £5. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1825/15)

Flares off Eastbourne. — Report from Eastbourne Battery. 8 white parachute flares observed at 2030 bearing 150 degs. from Eastbourne. Flares were proceeded by a dull red trace followed by a column of thick grey smoke. Descent very slow. Flares appeared to burn at sides. Duration lasted four to five minutes. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2105/15 to Adty.)

Convoy F.S.8. bombed. — Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy "ARENA" in 51° 56'N. 1° 40'E. (VEGA 0640/15)

Convoy F.N.9. bombed. — Enemy bombing Convoy F.N. odd in 51° 35'N. 1° 10' E. (LONDONDERRY 1140/15). One bomb no hits (LONDONDERRY 1157/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Aldeburgh. Very heavy underwater Explosion felt about 3 miles North of Aldeburgh. Nothing visible. (VIMIERA 0410/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Harwich. My 1827/14. Mine reported picked up in sweep was apparently dragged during Southern Sweep. It was seen and destroyed 6 cables S. of S.Shipwash Buoy when sighting sweep. Three of the mines sighted are reported as small approximately 30 inches diameter with recessed cover plate and five long horns painted black. Appear new when detonated explosions very violent.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1421/15 to Adty.)

Dover. Request 2 Oropesa Trawlers and one LL Trawler be sent to Dover forthwith. LL Trawler ONETOS now at Yarmouth is preferred. (V.A. Dover 1901/15 to Adty.)

Downs. My 1145/8. One Mine found 1.2 miles 275° from South Goodwin Light Vessel. (V.A. Dover 1904/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Falmouth. Sunk one Floating Mine west of Channel. 2 Mines seen to explode 13/10, one 119° Pendennis 17½ cables, and one 090° St. Anthony one mile. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1940/15 to Adty.).

LORD STAMP. H.M. Trawler. Missing, probably sunk by Mine at 0130/14 in 228° Portland Bill 17 miles. No survivors found (C.in C. Portsmouth 2047/15 to Adty.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Movement of Naval units suspected. German W/T traffic suggests a movement of naval units, possibly destroyers or larger, from the Bight to the southward possibly into the Channel. This movement may commence tonight or at an early date. It is also consistent with an operation in the Southern North Sea or Channel. U/Boats appear to be taking part. (D.D.I.C. 1657/15 to C's-in-C.)

My 1657/15. There are now indications from the nature of the W/T traffic that U-Boats in the North Sea and Atlantic or Channel are concerned and also air forces from Southern Norway and Brest.

The behaviour of the traffic for the last 24 hours is quite abnormal.
(D.D.I.C. 2059/15 to C's in C.)

/ Gironde .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Continued).

Gironde	A/S patrol by trawlers using 13 kc/s up to 16 miles off coast frequent daily air patrols. Trawler in position 045° 25' North 001° 48' West suspected of being beacon. (TIGRIS 1932/15 to V.A.S.).
Heligoland.	At 2105/15 in 53° 53' N. 6° 35' E., 3 large M/V's steering West. Aircraft report. (V.A.S. 2316/15 to H.28). At 2207 in 53° 55' N. 6° 35' E., six Ships steering 230°. Aircraft report (V.A.S. 2331/15 to H.28).
Kiel.	15 U-boats, 2 Cruiser Minelayers, 8 T.B's (F.I.U. 2355/15 to N.I.D.).
Zone C.1.	STURGEON reports a few small Norwegian M/V's proceed independently coastwise about 2 miles off shore in Zone C.1. (V.A.S. 1246/15 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Derelict Tanker.	In 57° 14' N. 8° 50' W., sinking slowly. (Aircraft 210. 1010/15 to Oban).
COSSACK.	(Damaged in attack on Enemy Convoy 14/10). My 2214/14. Notice for sea is 12 hours until 0700/16. Completing 1900/16. (C.in C. H.F. 1548/15 to Adty.).
APPLETREE.	H.M. Drifter. Sunk by R.A.F. Pinnace No. 50 at 2015/15 in position 1½ miles E.S.E. of Lismore Light, Oban. Crew saved. Confidential Books lost with Ship. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2345/15 to Adty.)
DROMORE CASTLE.	My 1215/9. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Cape Town 1035 B/15 to Adty.)
GLENIFFER.	My 1605/11. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1035 B/15 to Adty.)
SALANDO.	Dutch. (ex German MONI RICKMERS) Due Durban 11/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1055 B/15 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys. Shipping.

H.X. 78. To alter course. (C.in C. W.A. 1140/15).

O.L. 7. Amend route. (C.in C. W.A. 110/15).

S.L. 49 B. R.V. for ROSEMARY. (C.in C. W.A. 1420/15).

S.C. 7. Met, 35 ships, SCARBOROUGH (C.in C. W.A. 1410/15).
6 hours late. GLOXINIA rejoined. My position. (ANTELOPE, 2000/15).

O.L.8. HIGHLANDER and HAVELOCK probably sailing with. (C.in C. W.A. 1117/15).

W.N.24. ASPHODEL and LA MALOUINE as additional escort (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1010/15).

S.C. 8. Left Sydney 0516/15. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1500/15).

S.C. 6. Estonian NORA sailed and has not returned (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1544/14).

O.B. 229. Sailed. Escort CHELSEA, ARABIS, HELIOTROPE. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1234/15).

F.S. My 1651/11. F.S. 11 will run as slow convoy and F.S.12 as fast convoy (C.in C. Rosyth 1317/15).

Escorts. Your 1457/14. Corvettes have been allocated as follows:-
1st Group GLADIOLUS, CLARKIA, GERANIUM.
2nd Group ARABUS, ANEMONE, HELIOTROPE.
3rd Group HEARTSEASE, COREOPSIS.
4th Group PICOTEE and another.
(Capt. D. Liverpool 1815/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 1457/14. Following additional Destroyers available for 5th 6th 7th and 8th escort groups. VISCOUNT on completion of repairs. WHITEHALL WITHERINGTON VANSITTART early November.
(C.in C. W.A. 1903/15 to Capt. D. (Liverpool)

SVEADROTT
CASTOR. Swedish tankers SVEADROTT and CASTOR leave Goteborg in company at 1000/16 for the U.S.A. (Route). If they fail to report position and/or attempt to avoid passing through Skopen Fiord they should be intercepted and sent into Kirkwall.
(D.O.D.(H) 1723/15 V.A.S. 2207/15).

GONDUL. Swedish W/T announces that she has been refloated and is being towed to Hamburg.

/ D.E.M.S. .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

D.E.M.S. Gunlayers.

Under consideration to meet with Military Personnel the commitment referred to in Admty. 1042/29/5 and in Admty. letter M/T.D./D.E.M.S.531/40 of 30/6/40. If this policy is adopted, guns of all merchant ships in harbour in a position to use them will be manned by military personnel except that the gunlayers would be provided from the D.E.M.S. Service. To assess the total requirement of personnel F.O's and N.O's in charge and R.N.O's of all U.K. ports to report. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1836/15 amended 1202/16).

Troop Convoys.

Attacks on Convoys

In event of an attack on a Convoy the initial report by Senior Officer of escort is to include a brief report of counter action taken. Details required by A.M. 752 A Z re details to be signalled after attack on convoy giving position, time and date etc. comments on tactics employed by U-boat are to be signalled at next occasion of breaking W/T silence. (C.in C. W.A. 1931/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Captured Airmen. — Admiralty endeavouring arrange through N.A. Madrid for captured French personnel now at Gibraltar to be held as hostages for F.A.A. personnel held at Dakar. Request following three airmen ex 202 Squadron shot down off Casabianca and now held in Morocco be included. (200 Group, 0925/15 to A.M.)

Dakar Trade. — My 1731/14. Further details obtained from Masters of Swedish ships. (C.in C. S.A. 1131 M/15).

Libreville mined. — C.O.C. W. Africa reports Admiral French West Africa has proclaimed mined area off Libreville. Request further details. (M.D.I.C. 1245/15).

TOUAREG. — My 2149/6 and 1851/4. TOUAREG has arrived Duala and is now under Free French Guard. (C.in C. S.A. 1617/15).

Transports. — My 1313/5. PENNLAND is now at Freetown. WESTERNLAND arrives 18/10. (C.in C. S.A. 1841/15).

WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND now available further service. Desired to emply them for movements referred to in D. of S.Ts. 1932/6 and your 1755/12. Great importance attached to move from Lagos and Takoradi to Mombasa. If practicable to sunchronise this with WS 3A without delaying convoy request you will do so. Request your intentions for these troop moves also for move of internees from Lagos and Takoradi to Jamaica referred to in D. of S.T's 2126/6/9. (2337/15 to C.in C. S.A.).

French Ships. — Gibraltar 1833/15. French owned trawler SERGENT GOUARNE, AISNE, LORIENT from eastward to westward. 1925 SERGENT GOUARNE returned from east to west. (S.O.I., Gib., 1935/15 amended 0601/16).

French Aircraft. — At 1301 one French type recco. aircraft over Rock driven off by A/A fire. (Fovr. Gib., 2037/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French (Contd.)

Exchange of Captives. Admty. 2026/14. Text of message sent to Governor General Dakar by cable on 3/10. Survivors from French submarine AJAX are in British hands. I suggest we should consider an exchange with De Gaullist prisoners in your hands. I should appreciate an early expression of your views on this proposal. I should be grateful if you also inform me whether you have any survivors from British aircraft. (Ends). His reply states he could only refer proposal to his Government, but gave the names of 5 British airmen in his hands. Number of de Gaullist prisoners not known but General de Gaulle being asked if he has information. Original proposal for exchanging came from General de Gaulle see my 2001/28/9.
(C.in C. S.A. 1133 R/18).

THYSVILLE My 1808/10. THYSVILLE sailed Lisbon for Gibraltar 0030/15 routed territorial waters. As Germans have suffered diplomatic defeat they have threatened to make every effort to sink ship. Request special escort. Ship should arrive Cape St. Vincent 1400/15. (Lisbon 0042/15)

Your 0042/15. WRESTLER ordered to meet THYSVILLE off Cape St. Vincent and to escort her to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A 0631/15).

South Atlantic.

ANTONIOS CHANDRIS Your 1620/13. No news of second boat. (D.D.I.C. 1246/15 to N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro).

Greek ANTONIOS CHANDRIS, Cardiff to Buenos Ayres reported sunk by raider in 012° N. 036° W. on 8/9. This is third vessel known to have been sunk at dusk or during night in this area. Description of raider unreliable but master states she was 3 island type cargo steamer, about 8000 tons, with two unraked masts, unraked funnel close abaft bridge, counter stern.
(D.D.I.C. 1247/15.)

Overdue Ships. My 1215/9 and 1606/11. DROMORE CASTLE arrived Durban, GLENIFFER arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1035 R/15).
Dutch ship SALANDO ex German MONI RICKMERS due Durban 11/10 not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1055 R/15).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN Admty. 1432/13. Intend to sail from Durban, calling Capetown and arriving Freetown (dates). (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1345 Z/15)

/ LIVERPOOL .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LIVERPOOL Torpedoed by aircraft.

H.M.S. LIVERPOOL torpedoed in position 33.58 N. 26.23 E. at 1855/14. Taken in tow by ORION and in position 32.52 N. 27.47 E. at 1200/15. Damage appears to be back broken under A turret and bow semi detached. Cover being provided by WARSPITE, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, Cruisers and Destroyers.
(C.in C. Med. 1215/15).

Crete, defence of.

1st S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1252/15.
(See Mediterran V1.)

Ships at Haifa.

Two ships ATLANTIC and PACIFIC flying Panamanian flag are expected Haifa 16/10 with undesirable refugees onboard. Understood that the practice is for such vessels to lie off and disembark these persons in small boats on to the foreshore. Most important to prevent this and it is requested that you will give any assistance that is practicable to the Local Authorities. (D.O.D. (F) 2111/5 to C.in C. Med.).

Air Report, REGENT, Station Hospital Ship

Malta air intelligence report to 1700 hours G.M.T./15. Reconnaissances. Sunderland 228 Sqdn. requested at 1000 to locate and shadow Submarine REGENT possibly proceeding on surface and unable to dive 37.36 N., 20.42 E. Submarine not located.
Swordfish 830 Sqdn. sighted hospital ship 36° N. 16.17 E., and packing case and drum, possibly raft, 35.27 N., 17.32 E.
0541, Sunderland en route Alexandria led Italian hospital ship to some floats, 36° N. 16.17 E. At 0640, a French Loire 130 Aircraft approached Malta. Had left Karouba 0430. Was due to be flown by another crew to Morocco to join RICHELIEU. Second French Loire 130 missing.
(Govr., Malta, 1840/15).

Enemy M.V's.

Split reports on 11/10, 40-50 merchant ships fully loaded with food for Albania were seen at Bari, lying in 2 closely packed groups alongside Old and New Moles. (A.1). (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1145/15).

VIDO, sinking.

My 1747/13 (sinking of Yugoslav VIDO in Russian territorial waters). N.A. Belgrade reports that according to owner crew were picked up by Russian warship and taken to Sebastopol. Captain landed at Ismail.
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 2185/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Minesweepers. Observations on Admty. 1836/12, and need for replacing HUNTLEY and DERBY. (C.in C. E.I., 0658 Z/15).

MOGAMIGAWA MARU Your 0802/10. Agent Bushire states ship came direct from Saigon. As far as known, did not call at any other Iranian port. (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 0756 Z/15, to C.in C. E.I.).

My 0802/10. Arrived Mormagoa 22/9, sailed 25/9. (Cargo.) As vessel only spent 6½ hours in Bushire, all cargo presumably still on board. (C.in C. E.I. 1020 Z/15).

QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, MAURITANIA. Asking if special tanker arranged for fuelling. (P.S.T.O. India, 1030 Z/15).

China.

Staff Conversations. Chiefs of Staff tel. No. 18. Attitude of U.S. Govt. towards proposed conversations with Dutch and ourselves. Proposed exchange of information between Service representatives (1 S.L. 2221/15). Line to be taken in forthcoming conversations. Chiefs of Staff tel. No. 17. (1 S.L. 1856/15)

Saigon. KINDIA (French) left for Shanghai. SUGIYAMA MARU (Japanese) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Saigon, 0739 Z/15).

America and West Indies.

THAILIA Following received from Talara. Arrival THAILIA with entire Canadian crew loading crude oil for Japan. Crew will only proceed with approval and protection of Admiralty. Vessel was routed to here by N.C.S.O. Panama and Master holds Confidential Books. Reply urgent confirming foregoing is approved also send route. (Ends). Request instructions. (S.O.I. Callao, 1433/15 to C.in C. A. W.I.) Passed to Admty. Request early instructions (C.in C. A. W.I. 1942/15).

/ Town Class .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Continued)

Town Class Destroyers. My 1541/11. Route (B.S. 3. 1201/15).

Movements. Sydney departure 15/10, 0516 B.S.T. S.C.6. Halifax departures, BEVERLEY, BELMONT, BROADWAY, BROADWATER for St. John's N.F. Halifax arrival, RAJPUTANA. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1500/15).

NORA. Admty. 114/14. Estonian NORA definitely sailed from Sydney C.B. in S.C.6 and has not returned. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1544/14, received 0130/15).

Australia.

COMMISSAIRE RAMEL. Overdue. Asking re publication. (A.C.N.B., 1705/15)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GEDANIA Cargo of whale oil, left here early a.m. destination not known. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1000/15) (F.O.C.N.A. 1447/15, D.D.I.C., 1650/15 C.in C. S.A. 2237/15). SALOPIAN and CIRCASSIA to carry out sweep. (F.O.C.N.P., 1754/15).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AQUILEJA Hospital ship. Ordered 13/10 to put into Augusta and await orders. Believed to have on board survivors from destroyers sunk by AJAX. (D.S. 406).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

KINDIA Left 15/10 for Shanghai (N.C.S.O. Saigon 0739 Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10).

Position course and speed at 0800 B.S.T. (CHESHIRE, 0631/15). Position course and speed at 1100/15, 55.08 N., 11.38 W., 079°, 4 knots. Steaming party on board, remainder in SKEENA. No casualties. (CHESHIRE, 1109/15) Being towed stern first to Clyde by tugs. Position. (CHESHIRE, 1642/15). Asking if further assistance required. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2129/15). Reply. No. (CHESHIRE, 2259/15) Have 220 officers and ratings on board. Small steaming party in CHESHIRE. If weather holds, salvage appears very good. (SKEENA, 1748/15).

HURUNUI

British, 10,023 tons. Sunk by torpedo 2315 in position 58.58 N., 09.54 W. Survivors in ST. MARGARET. (FOWEY 0001/15). In Convoy O.A. 228. Bound from London to Auckland in ballast. (D.S. 406.)

BONHEUR
BRITISH GLORY

Torpedoed 57° 10' N. 8° 36' W. 0425/15. BONHEUR sunk. Request tug. Survivors of BONHEUR in SPHERE. PIROUETTE stand by with survivors from BRITISH GLORY (FOLKESTONE 0830/15). Asking permission to proceed to harbour to land 44 survivors, 2 seriously injured. BRITISH GLORY very slowly settled by stern. (PIROUETTE 1140/15, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1140/15). Proceed with survivors to Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1257/15 to PIROUETTE).

unnamed 0135.

Torpedoed (probably in O.B. 228) 57.10 8.36 W., (LEITH 0415/15 (D.S. 406) (see Submarines Reported, 0135).

Submarines reported.

0001. 58.58 N., 09.54 W., reliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 0051/15).

0135. Ship torpedoed position 58.58 N. 09.54 W. Submarine probably trying to get ahead of convoy for second attack. (H.Q. 18 Reconnaissance Group, 0135/15).

0106. 54° N., 11° to 13° W., indefinite. (D.S.406)

0912. 56° N. to 56° 30' N., 18° to 20° W., indefinite. (D.S. 406) (D.D.I.C. 1045/15).

0935. Aircraft report, 47.15 N., 04.55 W., course 280°, 7 knots. (V.A.S. 1226/15).

1330. D.F. probable U/B. 58.30' N., 25° 00' W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1531/15).

1228. Enemy submarine reported 58.30 N., 25.00 W. unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1531/15).

/ 1527.....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1527. D.F. unidentified enemy unit, probably U/B, 52° N., 16° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1615/15).

0603. D.F. bearing of German naval unit from AWARUA at 0603 G.M.T. was 095° (3). (D.D.I.C. 1155/15).

Estimated U/B dispositions. — Submarines Reported.

Italian - 2 between Spain and Azores, no recent news.

German - Possibly 1 some 250' N.W. of Finisterre
2 or possibly 3 far out in Atlantic between 54° and 58° N. and 17° and 20° W.
Possibly 1 was in about 54° N. between 11° and 13° W. at 0108/15.
1 in 55° 10' N, 13° 25' W. at 2030/14.
1 in 57° 10' N, 8° 38' W. at 0415/15 probably following Convoy O.B. 228.
1 in 58° 58' N. 9° 54' W. at 2315/14 probably outward bound and following Convoy O.A.228.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1248/15).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation P.S. EREBUS accompanied by 3 destroyers and with cooperation of 2 spotting aircraft bombarded Dunkirk docks last night. 50 rounds were fired and 45 are estimated to have fallen in the target area, though only 5 were spotted. The harbour was apparently empty. There was no retaliatory action whatever against our ships.

M.T.B's off Belgian Coast Two M.T.B's operated off the Belgian coast from Nieuport to Flushing last night.

Patrols in Western Approaches Owing to the possibility of A.P. vessels on patrols in the Dartmouth, Plymouth and Falmouth sub-commands being sunk by enemy light forces before they can make an alarm signal, readjustments of patrols and patrol boats are being made.

Enemy Intelligence There appears to have been considerable movement of shipping last night in a south-westerly direction off the Frisian Is. Aircraft of Bomber Command sighted several groups of merchant vessels and some destroyers, but detailed idenitification was not possible.

German Merchant ship Torpedoed Submarine L.27 reports that she obtained 3 hits on a 7000 ton merchant ship escorted by 7 trawlers off Cherbourg on 15/10.

British Air Activity

Many patrols were cancelled today on account of bad weather, and those flown were mostly ineffective.

Last night, heavy bombers attacked SCHARNHORST, LUTZOW and GNEISENAU at Kiel, but results were not definitely observed. Channel ports, docks at Flushing and Antwerp and gun emplacements at Cape Gris Nez were also attacked.

Aircraft of Coastal Command last night attacked targets at Lorient Terneuzen, Flushing, (in conjunction with a minelaying operation by F.A.A.) Ostend, Brest and Cherbourg.

Near misses were obtained by a Hudson which bombed 5 destroyers 4 miles N of Texel Island at 0410 today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 9. was bombed early this morning off Smiths Knoll but was undamaged.

Bombs were dropped near the R.A.F., D/F statio Mull Head, Deerness, Orkneys this evening and also on Shapinsay, but no damage or casualties were caused.

Pembroke Dock was attacked twice this evening, but no Naval damage occurred.

Mining

Harpenden aircraft last night laid mines off Kiel.

F.A.A. of Coastal Command last night laid mines off Flushing in conjunction with a strike operation by R.A.F.

One enemy aircraft was seen, suspected laying mines, at the entrance to the Bristol Channel this evening. Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night took place off the East Coast and Thames Estuary; a line of mines is suspected off Aldeburgh.

Aberdeen was closed at 0121/16 owing to suspected enemy minelay but was reopened at 1454.

All traffic in the river between Lambeth Bridge and West India Dock was suspended at 0500 today owing to reported magnetic mines in the river. Navigation was resumed at 1300

A mine was detonated in the Tyne this morning and 3 in the Thames Estuary last night.

M.T.B. 106 was mined and sunk today near Nore Light Vessel.

DUNDALK (Fast minesweeper) was mined today off Harwich and sank after being taken in tow.

/SS ACTIVITY....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining Contd.

SS. ACTIVITY (Coaster) was mined off Foulness today, but subsequently completed her voyage to Greenhithe.

North Atlantic

BARHAM was successfully docked today at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

Free French ships have been ordered to keep out of sight of Libreville.

Mediterranean

C. in C., Med. reports that the Fleet was attacked twice during the afternoon off 14/10 when South of Crete. No ships were hit. At 1900/14 the Battle Fleet was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo aircraft, one of which is believed to have been shot down.

The Fleet arrived at Alexandria 0100/16. LIVERPOOL, in tow of ORION, arrived at 1000/1(

There was an air raid on Alexandria from 0030 to 0130 today whilst the Fleet was arriving. 9 bombs were dropped but no damage or casualties resulted. There was another raid this evening, but no naval damage resulted.

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on Italian Bases in Libya. Tobruk, Bardia, Capuzzo and Sollum were attacked.

An air attack was made on Malta this afternoon. No damage or casualties have been reported.

/Effect of.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Effect of Italian Advance

C. in C., Med. reports:-
Sidi Barrani was one of R.A.F. Advanced Landing Grounds and its loss has following effect:-

(a) R.A.F. Bomber and Fighters have to operate from 50 miles further back.

(b) Whereas Fighter protection could previously be afforded to bombarding ships as far as Bardia, such protection is now limited to a point some way short of enemy flank at Sidi-Barrani.

(c) Whereas with Sidi-Barrani F.A.A. torpedo striking forces have been able to attack enemy ports and sea communications as far as Derna, they can now only do so with a great struggle using long range tanks which reduce performance. Furthermore they cannot now have fighter protection for any part of their flight.

(d) Sidi-Barrani in hands of enemy gives him an advanced landing ground within 200 miles of Alexandria and 60 miles of Mersa Matruh. This enables him to escort his bombers with when bombing Mersa Matruh which effects Naval situation inasmuch as Mersa Matruh is used at advanced base for small bombarding ships such as LADYBIRD and may have to be used to supply Army by sea.

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. — At 0200/16. (D.C. 0221/16) At 1400/16 (D.C. 1433/16).

Rosyth Dockyard. A.A. Gun Defences. — Adty. 1011/15. Request additional A/A Cover, including if possible light A/A Gun Defence, to augment Balloon Barrage from 17/10 to about 19/11. (D. of L.D. 1534/16 to Fighter Command)

Movements.

SOUTHAMPTON. — C.S.18's 0855/16. Intend pass Gate 1810/16. Expected time of arrival Scapa 1130/17. (SOUTHAMPTON 1244/16 to F.O. Humber.)

Dover. — Patrols for night 16/17. (V.A. Dover 1407/16 and 1727/16)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler lines on 16/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/16

Portsmouth. — Movements for night 16/17. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/16).

Rosyth Area. — Movements for night 16/17. (C.in C. Rosyth 1818/16).

CALIFORNIA. — Subject to satisfactory completion of trials, will be ready for service p.m/20. Request destination. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2027/16 to Adty).

GLASGOW.
DUNCAN.
FEARLESS.
FOXHOUND.
FAME. — GLASGOW, DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND and FAME will be required to leave U.K. on (date) and will then cease to be units of the Home Fleet.
2. GLASGOW will join Mediterranean Fleet.
3. DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND and FAME will join the 13th Flotilla.
4. The above destroyers will form the escort for ARK ROYAL. C.in C. to arrange for them to be ready to sail with her from Liverpool on (date).
5. GLASGOW should be sailed to R/V with ARK ROYAL. Further signal will be made giving instructions for this movement.
(ACNS(H) & C.in C. HF, 2040/16)

Operations.

KING GEORGE V. — Expect A/S Air Escort from 0715 until reaching May Island. (C.in C. Rosyth 2242/16 to KING GEORGE V).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland.

BEAGLE with 2 destroyers detailed by C.in C. W.A. will be required to screen ARGUS sailing p.m/18 for Reykjavik. BEAGLE to proceed at 0600/17 to Clyde with all convenient despatch. (C.in C. H.F. 0956/16 to BEAGLE). Adty. 1649/15. HURRICANE and ACHATES escort for ARGUS. (C.in C. W.A. 1109/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Adty. 1900/13. HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER escort for ALMANZORA ANTONIA. (C.in C. W.A. 1727/16 to F.O.I.C's Liverpool, Greenock). My 1900/13. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA will take the place of ALMANZORA. (D.O.D. H. 1755/16 to C.in C.W.A.)

M.T.B's between Boulogne and Gravelines.

Weather permitting, M.T.B's 70 and 5 will leave Dover at 2200/16, returning at daylight 17th. (V.A. Dover 1109/16 to Adty). Operation cancelled on account of weather. (V.A. Dover 2135/16 to Adty).

M.T.B's between Flushing and Ijmuiden.

Weather permitting tonight 60 ft. M.T.B's are to operate on Belgian and Dutch coasts between Nieuport and Hook of Holland. They are not to go north of latitude 52° N. Any vessel met south eastward of line drawn 050° from Westhinder Buoy (C.P.S.C.2226) may be attacked without challenge. Any large concentration of ships encountered should be reported immediately. My 1150/16 for between Nieuport and Hook of Holland read between Flushing and Ijmuiden. Patrol T tonight Wednesday has been cancelled. Any vessel met East of 3 degrees East may be attacked, without challenge. S.O. S/M Harwich should be consulted about movements of own submarines. (C.in C. Nore 1540/16 to Beehive).

Nore Command.

Patrols for night 16/17. (C.in C. Nore. 1134/16). Patrol T tonight has been cancelled (C.in C. Nore 1540/16 to Beehive and 1329/16 to AURORA).

L.27. torpedoed enemy M.V.

My 0200/16. Have obtained 3 hits on 7000 ton M/V escorted by 7 trawlers off Cherbourg. (L.27 0210/16 to Capt: S.5 and C.in C. Portsmouth 1037/16 to Adty). Details of attack (C.in C. Portsmouth 2023/16 to Adty).

/Operation.

1

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation PS. (EREBUS). — 50 rounds fired. Spotting conditions very good with spotter left undisturbed owing to flare-dropper drawing ground defence fire as planned. 5 rounds only spotted due to small burst of C.P.C. shell, but 45 rounds considered to have fallen in target area. W. fires observed on quays. Harbour apparently empty. No enemy retaliatory action whatever against ships. (C.in C. Nore 1354/16 to Adty).

Patrol O. Patrol T. — Cancel my 1212/16. If nothing found by Sweepers in Gap E, Patrol O tomorrow will be by 3 of 21st D.F., and Patrol T by AURORA and 3 of 16th D.F. Routes. (C.in C. Nore 2324/16 to AURORA).

Submarines.

CLYDE. — My 1648/15. Amend position to read 60° 50'N. 22° W. (V.A.S. 0031/16 to Adty),

L.27. — Your 0200. ARCTIC PIONEER will R/V with you in 180° St. Catherines 10 miles. 3 Blenheims detailed as Fighter escort. (Capt: S.5 0552/16 to L.27). Intend to sail L.27 for Area D.4. at 1700/17. Route. (Capt. S.5 2235/16 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

CACHALOT. TAKU. — Intend to sail CACHALOT and TAKU escorted by SURPRISE from Clyde at 0715/18 for position 270° Bishop Rock 15 miles. CACHALOT and TAKU thence to Patrol. SURPRISE to Plymouth. (S.2 1214/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0700/17. (V.A.S. 1553/16).

H.49. — Intend to sail at 1600/17 for Patrol in Zone H.1 Route. (50 S/M's Harwich 1731/16 to V.A.S.)

Bombing Information. — My 1126/2. Lorient and Gironde. (V.A.S.1739/16 to S/M's Area B).

TAKU. — Sails for Patrol in Bay of Biscay 18/10. I am giving her similar permission to that givin to TIGRIS in my 1641/14. (V.A.S. 1844/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Rosyth Air Searches.

Cancel my 1832/15, owing to low visibili (C.in C. Rosyth 0806/16).
Searches for 17/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/16).

Patrols S.A. I.E.

Cancelled, owing to low visibility. (C.in C. Rosyth. 0808/16).

A/C from Iceland.

Adty's 1649/15. 701 Squadron is to be disembarked at Clyde as soon as possible after arrival of ship and sent to a Naval Air Station as directed by R.A.N. A.S. and will subsequently be stationed at Stornoway or Sullom Voe as decided by C.in C.H.F. until required for other service.
(D.N.A.D. 1233/16 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Attack on Coastal Batteries proposed.

Consideration to bombing Coastal Batteris between Calais and Ambleteuse between 0315 and 0545 on 18/10 when C.E.14 will be proceeding between No.10 buoy and South Goodwin Light Vessel.
Dover Gun will co-operate.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1549/16 to Air Ministry).

Patrol H.D. Coastal Command.

Will consist of the following tracks. (Hatston 1641/16 to A.C.O.S).

Coastal Command.

Narrative from 1700/2300. (H.Q.C.C. 2300/16 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.9 attacked.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "PILOT" 53° 4'N. 1° 33'E. (Londonderry 0303/16).
My 0803, 8 bombs, no hits.
(Londonderry 0314/16.)

Deptford.

Heavy H.E. Bomb fell on Block 44, Cooperage, at about 2000/15. Details of damage. (Supt. R.V.Y Deptford 0950/16 to Adty.)

Unknown ship attacked.

Unknown ship attacked by A/C bearing 290° Intercept at 1438 G.M.T.
(North Foreland Radio, Recd. 1545/16.)

Balloons containing leaflets.

Following from Military Source begins. Enemy balloons with attachments containing leaflets have been reported from Eastern South East and North Midlands regions. Balloons believed to measure 10 feet - 20 feet and to carry small explosive charges operating by clockwork and intended to scatter leaflets. Care therefore required in handling.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2351/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Bristol Channel.	Western fitter reports one aircraft suspected minelaying in area 51° 20'N. 51° 40'N, 4° 20'W., 4 °40'W. (C.in C. W.A. 2217/16 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
Aberdeen.	Closed, owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0121/16 to Adty).
Thames.	Owing to reported Magnetic Mines in River, all traffic suspended between Lambeth Bridge and West India Dock. Magnetic coil sweepers working at daybreak. (F.O.I.C. London.0500/16 to Adty).
S.S. ACTIVITY.	S.S. ACTIVITY motor coaster mined 16/10 in 51° 30' 56"N. 0° 55' 00" E. Explosion 8 feet abeam of bridge ship on steady course speed 8 knots ship wiped on20/9. Master first reported explosion as due to bomb but no aerial activity at time. Vessel beached and subsequently refloated and completed voyage to Greenhithe. (C.in C. Nore 0949/18).
Thames Estuary.	3 Red Mines detonated by sweepers on night 15/16. 2 cables 070° Barrow Deep L.V; one mile 317° East Tongue; and 8 cables 123° N.E. Spit. (C.in C. Nore 0941/16 to Adty).
Tyne.	One ground magnetic mine detonated LL at 0910/16 in 112° North Pier Light 22.5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0945/16 and 2142/16 to D.M.S.)
Knob L.V.	Large Explosions observed ½ mile from knob L.V. (VERDUN 1148/16 to C.in C. Nore.)
M.T.B.106.	Commodore Sheerness reports M.T.B.106 sunk by Mine 2.5 miles 278° Nore L.V. Crew picked up by attendant Rescue Boat. One minor casualty. (C.in C. Nore 1247/16 to Adty).
Off Aldeburgh.	D.1 reports suspected line of Mines from 52 12.3'N., 2 °36.5'E at 0506/15. Search will be made at daylight 17th. (C.in C. Nore 1510/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Minelaying Operation. Your 1819/15. DOUWE AUKES is embarking the mines at Portsmouth a.m. 18th October. Portsmouth No. 5338/01150 of 16/10 gives intended lay out of minefield and explains reason for using fixed moorings. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1907/16 to Adty).

2 E-Boats off Cromer. 2 Enemy Motor Boats in 52° 56'N., 2° 4'E. (VIVIEN 0015/16)

M/V's in Elbe. At 0044/15 on south bank of Elbe from Gluckstadt to 2 miles south of Brunsbuttel, 16 large ships up to 6000 tons, apparently stationary. (H.Q.B.C. 0111/16).

3 Destroyers off Texel. 3 Destroyers in 53° 13'N. 4° 40'E steering 210° at 10 knots. (aircraft of 206 Squadron 0430/16 to Bircham Newton.)

Dutch Coast. M/V's reported from 2113/15 to 0009/16. (D.C. 0502/16 to V.A.S.)

Gironde. TIGRIS reports. (V.A.S. 0942/16 to Adty)

Enemy Main Units. Positions on 15/10. (C.in C. H.F. 1042/1[illegible] to V.A.C. B.C.S.) (D.D.I.C. 1541/16 to A.I.G.)

KJOBENHAVN. Steamer on Aarhus-Copenhagen service suffered an accident off Gilleleje necessitating return to Melsingor and service suspended till further notice. (N.A. Stockholm 1435/16 to D.N.I.)

Brest. 7 destroyers reported in Rade Abri. (P.R.U. St.Eval 1540/16).

Unknown ship failing to answer challenge. DANMAN reports unknown small craft 194° Eddystone 18 miles which failed to answer challenge at 2302. (C.in C. W.A. 2337/16 to BROKE, BURZA).

Miscellaneous.

2 Painted Objects. Following received by R.A.F. from ABERDEEN. Begins. At1830/15 sighted 2 black and red painted PEBLETS just watching and marking on one end of light diesel oil patch ½ of mile long by 20 yards broad in 55° 45' 07° 52'. No contact obtained near position. 0930/16. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Stomoway 1205/16 to C.in C. W.A).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

2 Painted Objects. (Contd.)	Instruct A/S Trawlers carrying out sweep to investigate and recover 2 black and red painted objects reported in position 55 degrees 45' north 07 degrees 52' west at 1830/15. (C.in C. W.A. 2159/16 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

MARNE. Following from intercepted cable. French Despatch Vessel MARNE aground 14/10 coast Hainan near Hoihow. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0751Z/16 to Adty).

MARLY. Norwegian, 1115 tons. Bombay Radio Station reports distress message at 2317 G.M.T. ship sinking in 18° 30'N 72° 21'E. Taken to lifeboats at 2337. (S.O. I. Bombay 1052Z/16 to Adty).

CYCLAMEN. Plummer-block badly wiped. Can steam at moderate speed required for working up. Expect complete working up on 24/10. (WESTERN ISLES 1724/16 to Adty)

HAARLEM. (Ex-U.S.Destroyer). My 1105 defective. Sailing postponed. (C.in C. W.A.2025/16 t F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

A.G.B.A(?). Reported in "Belfast Telegraph" as sunk in collision with a Norwegian steamer while on passage to Glasgow.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

S.L. 49 B — 6 hours late (C. in C., W.A., 0110/16

C.E. 14 — Request fighter protection (C. in C., Portsmouth 2003/16)

O.B. 229 — WHITEHALL left Londonderry for. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0630/16)

O.B. 228 — LEITH, HEARTSEASE and FOLKESTONE to remain with until 0001/17 and then join S.C. 7. (C. in C., W.A., 1950/16)

O.A. 230 — CURACOA from Scapa joining about midnight (C. in C., Rosyth, 1946/16) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil 1008/16)

S.L. 49 A
E.N. 10 — When met transfer to convoy S.L. 49 A Senior Officer H.M.S. ABERDEEN expected Pentland Firth eastbound at 0800/17.
2. On meeting convoy E.N. 10 officer SOUTHERN PRIDE expected Buchanness 2145/17 transfer to that convoy and cover to Pentland Firth. (R.A.D.H.F. 2005/16, to CURACOA) E.N. 10 Route, etc., (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0948/16)

S.C. 8 — Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B. 1702/15 Recd. 0423/16)

Shipping

Troop Convoys

Escort Groups — C. in C., W.A. 2101/12. Groups detailed as follows. No 1 group SABRE, SKATE, STURDY. No 2 group, SALADIN SCIMITAR SARDONYX SHIKARI (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1631/16)

Navigation Lights — To be burnt by ships off N. and S. America (See America & West Indies)

Convoys and U/Boat Attack — My 2004/14/7 and N.C.S.I. 102, Commodores are to be informed that in future when attacked by a U-Boat the convoy is not to scatter if a local air or surface escort is present or may shortly be expected. (D.T.D. 1504/16)

Convoys and Gunfire, Dispersal — Your 1246/15. Suggestion for dispersal as a safeguard from enemy gunfire by spreading the convoy discussed at convoy conference this a.m.
Considered there are grave objections to proposed plan, but that it might be a solution of the shelling problem and should be tried. Details of objections.
To test the system of spreading, detailed arrangements were made to put your 1246/15 into effect. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1857/16 to C. in C., Nore.)

/W.N. & E.N....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

W.N. & E.N. Convoys

Admty. 1906/4 and 1850/7. Requested that a representative from your Command may attend a meeting at Admiralty Trade Division at 1130/18. to discuss action to be taken to implement Admiralty's proposals regarding WN and EN Convoys. Main points in question (details)
Ministry of shipping is pressing for increased facilities for seven knot ships owing to growing accumulation of coastal shipping at Liverpool and the Clyde.
(D.T.D. 2117/16 to C. in C's W.A. and Rosyth)

SVEADROTT
CASTOR

Amending Admty. 1723/15. (D.C. 0022/16)
My 1723/15. N.A.Stockholm states that SVEADROTT and CASTOR will proceed in company to Kristiansand for instructions through German declared area, thence at 8½ knots in accordance with Admiralty route.
SVEADROTT will part company and increase speed to 11½ knots on reaching longitude 09° W. vessels are painted light grey with Swedish flags painted on hull and deck and will burn navigation lights at night. (D.O.D. (H) 1203/16)
Swedish Admty. informs sail at 1000/16. Due Christiansand 17/10 leave again a.m. /18. Route. Am asked whether tanker BERA, oil for Swedish Navy, may be granted safe conduct for Mexican Gulf to Gothenburg under similar conditions to recent return voyage of SVEADROTT (N.A.Stockholm 1610/16, 1739/16) Informing submarines on patrol (V.A.S. 1841/16) Informing F.O.C.I.C.S. (C. in C., H.F)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Libreville — Free French Ships ordered to keep out of sight of (C.S.I., 0935A/16)
Admty. 1245/15 (mined area off Libreville)
See my 1220/1. Gen de Gaulle and Spears Mission were informed at the time. (C. in C., S.A. 1139N/16 to Admty.)

BARHAM — Admty. 2113/11. Details of search carried out. Maximum visibility ensured search was 100% efficient. (BARHAM, 1015/16)

Operation — Your 1615/15 to W.O. I will be at Lagos 17/10 and 18/10. Request early information of decision to proceed with operation mentioned, outline of British Naval co-operation desired, and firm date, in order fuelling of ships may be arranged accordingly. Also projected employment of Free French Ships. (C.S.I., 1047A/16 to Spears Mission)

French Submarines — Following from French N.A. on instructions from French Admiralty. French escort Vessel LA BATAILLEUSE, Submarines ESPOIR, VENGEUR, PEGASE and MONGE with tanker LOT will pass Gibraltar about 1200/17 en route Casablanca. They will relieve Submarines LE HEROS, LE GLOIRE, CIRCE and CALYPSO which will then proceed with same escort to Oran. ends. (N.A.Madrid, 1300/16) (See D.O.D.(F) 2237/16)

Patrol — Your 1819/16 para 2. Patrol is being established but distance from Straits being limited to ensure that patrol does not encounter submarines referred to in N.A. Madrid's 1300/16 during dark hours. (S.O. Force H, 2001/16)

Port Gentil — Following received from N.C.S.O. Duala. The French authorities report intercepted signal from Libreville to Port Gentil authorising payment of 200,000 francs to Vichy. French destroyer L'ENTREPRENANT repeated to French Submarine DONCELET 2142/15/10. (S.O.I., Freetown 1142/16, to Admty. etc.,)

/Interception....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

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/Interception....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Interception Plans

Concur that arrangements should be made that will meet requirements for situation envisaged.
Unless at least 7 days warning can be obtaine of enemy intentions to move, consider situation envisaged in B.N. 1. will certainly arise and plan to meet this should be worked out in detail.
Conclude prospects of interception of the enemy en route are poor.
Consider at least 15 destroyers of which 9 or possibly 10 available from 8th D.F. and 13th D.F.
Propose transports return U.K. as soon as possible on grounds of security.
Also propose Morford and Waller return to U.K. at earliest opportunity in order to discuss plan. Morford concurs and considers it impracticable to carry out operation envisaged without prior contact with Commanders of other units of his command. (S.O.Force H., 1804/16 to Admty.)

French Intelligence

Conversation with French N.A. including following points.
1. Movements of munitions to Dakar escorted by PRIMAUGUET was in accordance with undertaking given to protect French Colonies against all interference. This is chiefly i French view axis interference. Ships and Dakar to be brought to fighting efficiency
2. No German influence at Dakar.
3. Admiral Lacroix at Dakar very anti Germar
4. Weygand anti Laval and Anti German.
8. Bombing of French Channel ports most effective.
9. French starting Secret Munitions Factori in French Morocco.
French N.A. most cordial but very muddled i loyalties. (N.A.Madrid, 1950/16)

Exchange of Shipping

French N.A. states instructed by French Admty. to open possibility of exchange of all Britisha and Allied merchant vessels an crews held by French against all French merchant vessels held by British Empire. Latter figure 360,000 tons. Former 60,000 tons British and uncertain number allied. Is this to be considered? (N.A.Madrid., to Admty, 1900/16)

/French M.V's....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French M.V's

Admty. 1439/23/9, 1515/26/9, 2300/30/9. Request action to be taken if a French Merchant ship is intercepted. Should such be treated as neutral or enemy. (F.O.C.N.P. 2054/16 to Admty.)

Casablanca

N.A.Madrid's 1300/16. French Forces proceeding to and from Casablanca should not be interfered with (D.O.D. (F) 2236/16) Your 2237. Orders have been already issued to this effect. (F.O.C.N.A., 2350/16)

Force H.

Your 1612/16. If by 1400/17 no French forces other than those in N.A.Madrid's 1300/16 have been sighted, ships may revert to normal notice for steam. (V.C.N.S., 2319/16, to Force H.)

PRIMAUGUET

COMMANDANT DOMINE has reported he is returning to Duala now by order of Leclere and that French ship PRESIDENT HOUDACE has already returned to Duala with engine defect. Also rumoured French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET has sailed for South with oiler and 2 submarines. (DELHI 2322/16)

Admty. 2319/16. If ships have reverted to normal notice AUSTRALIA, ECHO, ESCAPADE and transports KARANJA (16 knots) and ETTRICK (14 knots) are to be sailed to Clyde p.m./17.
Opportunity should be taken to reduce numbers for REINO del PACIFICO.
(V.C.N.S. 2333/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Raider Situation:- Appreciation

Now known that the raider which left Germany early in April and which sank the HAXBY in 31° 30' N., 51° 30' W., on 24/4 proceeded via Cape Horn to the Pacific laying mines off Aukland on 12/6. This ship captured the TROPIC SEA and probably the NOTOU and TRAKINA.

It is thought that another raider left Germany at about the same time and after sinking the SCIENTIST on about 3/5 laid mines off Cape Agulhas. This ship probably proceeded to the Indian Ocean and could have been responsible for all the losses in that area.

Known and suspected losses in the Atlantic since the sinking of the CYMBELINE on2/9 could have been caused by one raider but it is thought more likely that two have been operating one in the North Atlantic and one in the vicinity of the Equator on the Cape and South America trade routes. (D.D.I.C. 1308/16)

North Atlantic

Portuguese Warships
TEJO
A. ALBUQUERQUE
3 Submarines
TAMEGA

Movements (F.O.C.N.A., 1017/16 to HOTSPUR, SALOPIAN, CIRCASSIA)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE

My 1320/11. Attitude of Spanish Government appears to be that crew are officially interned but we undersatand that release can probably be obtained. Precedent is the case of the French Sloop wrecked near Vigo. Have advised Ambassador that Spain cannot claim internment under convention of 1907 article 15 because H.M.G. never ratified this convention; that H.M.G. is bound by convention of 1899 of which only article 10 applies and that article was excluded from ratification by all powers; that men should therefore be released at once. Please confirm Officers and men are well and in charge of Vice Consul but cannot remain so indefinitely. (N.A. Madrid, 1830/15, to F.O.I.C., Gibraltar)

BARHAM

Was successfully docked this morning in lengthened No. 1. dock. (A.S.Gibraltar, 1230/16)

/Straits Patrol.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic- Contd.

Straits Patrol — Admty. 1819/16, para 2. Patrol is being established but distance from Straits is being limited to ensure that patrol does not encounter submarines referred to in N.A. Madrid's 1300/16. (re French Submarines) during dark hours. (S.O. Force H., 2001/16)

South Atlantic

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Admty. 1432/13. Request sail to Freetown as soon as completed. (C. in C., S.A., to Capt. i/c Simonstown, 1305/16)

CUMBERLAND — To act as escort to convoy W.S. 3. Slow. Route (C. in C., S.A., 1319N/16)

German Seamen — Brazilian ship DOM PEDROI esailed Montevideo October 14th for Santos. Report graded A.1. stated 27 Germans from crew of German merchant ship at Buenos Aires took passenger DOM PEDROI, though no German appeared in passenger list. This report indirectly confirmed by another report that WINDHUK at Santos is preparing to leave shortly. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1943/16 to ASTURIAS, QUEEN OF BERMUDA)

SELANDIA
LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE — Your 1242/8 and 1246/8. Re employment in carrying troops and stores between Durban and Mombasa. (D. of S.T., to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2114/16)

Mediterranean

REGENT — Orders for entering Grand Harbour (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0907/16)

Alexandria Raid — Air raid 0030 to 0130. 9 bombs, no damage, no casualties, (R.A., Alexandria, 1100/16) (D.S. 408)

Fleet at Alexandria — Arrivals, 14/10 YORK; 15/10, MALAYA, RAMILLES SYDNEY, AJAX, EAGLE and 7 destroyers; 16/10, C. in C., in WARSPITE, with VALIANT ILLUSTRIOUS, GLOUCESTER, LIVERPOOL, ORION, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, and 9 destroyers. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1705/16)

/Enemy Units.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy Units — One destroyer 3 merchant vessels, position course and speed of enemy 37.50 N., 15.40 E., 180°, unknown, at 1450. (Capt S. 1. 1741/16)

Torpedo Aircraft Attacks — Italians have achieved 2 notable successes with torpedo aircraft against moon, unseen until too late. Menace serious. To counter, R. direction finding essential. Urge very special efforst to supply. (C. in C., Med. 2203/16 to Admty.)

Convoy A.S.4. — Arrived (N.O.I.C., Port Said. 1837/16)

U-Boats Black Sea — Bucharest report (begins) Reliable sources at Galatz state that four German S/Ms are being constructed, parts arrived mainly by railway to construction yard where men kept under guard have been working for nearly three weeks. 2 Submarines ready. (Ends) Further information being sought. Reliability unassessed. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1029/16)

Payment of French Fleet — Your 1731/28. Probable monthly expenditure French Fleet is £22,000. Admiral Godfroy informs me Vichy Government is endeavouring to arrange through French N.A. Washington for a monthly sum of one hundred thousand dollars to be transferred to credit of French Fleet in Egypt. I have authorised Cashier Alexandria to advance a loan of five thousand pounds Egyptian to French Fleet to enable wages of Officers and men to be paid. Loan will be refunded if and when credit from Washington is arranged. (C. in C., Med. 1201/16, to Admty.)

Libyan Front Situation — Comments on Admty. 1744/10. (Libyan Front Summary sent by D.M.I. (C. in C., Med. 1559/16- see Situation report)

Jewish Refugees

ATLANTIC
MILOS — Admty. 2111/15. Piraeus reports Panama ship ATLANTIC and another steamer name unknown both carrying Jewish refugees arrived and left Mitylene 13/10.
ATLANTIC reported to be carrying 1800 Jews, PACIFIC 1030. Latter painted grey with black funnel.

/My 1057/13.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Jewish Refugees ATLANTIC MILOS Contd.

My 1057/13, not to Admiralty, Panama steamship MILOS former MARIA I arrived Piraeus 0700/15 with Jewish refugees.
Ship was refused permission to enter port and sailed at once for unknown destination. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1211/16)

Air Raid Alexandria

Air Raid between 1900 and 2145/16. About 20 bombs. One Polish soldier killed and 3 wounded, no other damage. (R.A.Alexandria, 1025/17)

Operation B.S.

Operation B.S. Appendix two. Para 4. Malta. Delete existing Sanctuary and substitute: "between bearing 200° and 250° from and within 25 miles of Dalimara Light. Searched Channel into harbour being made Sanctuary as necessary". T.O.O. 1211/16. (C. in C., Med., 1234/16)

Malta. Air Reconnaissance Air Raid

Situation Report up to 1800 hrs. 16/10.
11.36 - 13.57 Skua F.A.A. reconnaissance Eastern Sicilian Ports. Messina- one destroyer and two or three coastal boats. Augusta- one large M/V 6,000 tons and 20 seaplanes. Catania and Syracuse- nil.
At 12.50 reported by W/T one destroyer and three M/M's course 180° position 37.50 North 15.40 East.
14.45. Departed again to relocate position of convoy before deciding to despatch striking force. Landed 17.55 convoy not located although search from Malta to Cape Spartivento and down Eastern Sicilian coast was carried out. The M/V 6,000 tons which was in August was then leaving on course 28 Landed 17.51.
10.03 - 13.38 One Swordfish of 830 Squadron F.A.A. searched for Swordfish crew who were picked up by Sunderland. On its way back attacked and probably damaged CANT. Z. 501 which had just taken off from patch of oil position sixty miles East of Malta. This was approximately where destroyers were sunk on 12/10.
Air alarm sounded 08.10. Six Hurricanes and two Gladiators up but raid did not materialise. (Govr., Gib. 2208/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Cargoes Jedda

M.O.I.C. Port Sudan reports local censor frequently intercepts P.L. messages from London, Aden, Bombay and Colombo giving names of ships proceeding with cargoes to Jedda. Enquiries being made. Suggest enquiries London and Bombay. (C. in C., E.I., 0330/16)

U.S. 5 A

Date of sailing from Colombo and arrival Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 10462/16)

A.P. 3. S.W. 2.A.

Date of leaving Suez, and to meet U.S..5 A. at Red Sea R.V. Convoay will be called S.W. 2 A. (C. in C., E.I., 10542/16)

QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA

Estimated fuel and water requirements. Tanker BRITISH COURAGE will be available for fuelling convoy. (D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. India, Bombay 1633/16)

Dutch Ships Reunion

Your 0744/12. C. in C., N.E.I. confirms that Reunion agent's message was sent to Director at Batavia but K.P.M. Director acting under N.E.I. Govt. instructions does not allow their ships to call at Reunion or Madagascar. (C. in C., China, 03032/16, to C. in C., E.I.)

MARLY Distress Message

For Lloyds List from Lloyds Agent, Bombay. Distress Message from SS MARLY 2313 G.M.T. in sinking condition 18.30 N., 92.21 E., Hatch broke down at 2317, sinking at 2337 taken to lifeboats. (S.O.I., Bombay 10522/16.)

Italian Submarines Sunk

Admty. 2028/14 paragraph 5 (i) Italian Submarine GALILEO GALILEI captured 19th June (ii) TORRICELLI sunk by KANDAHAR 23/6 (iii) LUIGI GALVANI sunk by FALMOUTH 24/6. (iv) Italian submarine MACALLE struck reef and sank off Port Sudan June. (v) Italian submarine PERLA attacked by KINGSTON 26/6 later found beached. Bombarded and bombed 27/6. Subsequently towed to Massawa believed still there. (C. in C., E.I., 11362/16)

/Air Attacks.....

MOST SECRET.

16.10.1940.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Conversations with U.S. and Dutch.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No.18. Ref: Chiefs of Staff Telegram No.17. The attitude of the U.S. Government towards proposed conversations with the Dutch and ourselves has undergone a change due to the need for exercising caution in period immediately before presidential election. Conversations of the wide scope envisaged in the above quoted telegram are not therefore likely to take place in the immediate future, and the instructions contained in that Telegram should therefore be held in abeyance for the present. American Government have, however, proposed that exchange of information between Service representatives, in a manner not likely to arouse publicity, should take place in London and Washington. They have also suggested that the Dutch Government should be approached by H.M.G. with the object of taking part in this interchange.

H.M.G. are accordingly approaching Dutch Government with the suggestion that they should appoint Officers, both in London and in Singapore, to enter into discussions of possible future plans upon a hypothetical basis. When the reply of the Dutch Government is received, a further telegram will be sent to you with instructions as to the line to be taken with the Dutch representatives appointed to confer with you at Singapore.

F.O. have also been asked to press the Government of the U.S. to send Officers to Singapore to take part in the discussions, as it is realised that the value of these discussions would be very greatly reduced without their participation.
(W.O., 2215/16 to G.O.C. Malaya).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Air Attacks PARRAMATTA PUNDIT

PARRAMATTA reports attack 0846/14 by one aircraft, engeged by fighters and 4 bombs dropped 3 miles wide.
Attack 1315/15 by 3 aircraft. Good attack 5 bombs narrowly missing PUNDIT and 5 not far from RANEE. Blenheim fighters intercepted and disabled one which dived into sea and attacked second aircraft indecisively.
One minor casualty from splinters in PUNDIT (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1256Z/16)

China

MARNE

Intercepted cable states 14/10. French despatch vessel MARNE aground coast Hainan near Hoihow. (Capt O.S., Singapore, 0751Z/16)

Shipping Japan

My 2016/4. In view of possibility of these ships being chartered by Japan financial conditions of charter may be waived.
British India S.N.Co. has been informed accordingly but have been told that ships if chartered must not be used on Japanes run.
(D.T.D. 1438/16 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

KOSMOS

Due Curacao 10/10 from Walrus Bay, not arrived. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1131/16)

Navigation Lights

Admiralty message "D.F". Ref. A.M.S.I. 39.
When on coastal route of North or South America in Areas 8 and 10, British merchant vessels are to proceed undarkened and to burn navigation lights at full brilliance.
(D.T.D. 1201/16, to C.B.M.S. all area)

French Trade West Indies

Your 1231/9. Request report on extent of this trade in both directions, names and nationalities of ships engaged in trade and cargoes carried. H.M.G. are in communication with U.S. Government on subject.
Concur in proposed action. Any French ships brought in for examination are to be reported to Admiralty with summary of cargo and such ships and cargo to be held pending receipt of instructions from H.M.G. as to disposal.
Head of M. 1139/16 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

/THALIA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

American & West Indies-Contd.

THALIA — Your 1942/15. In July New York reported Master and full crew of THALIA were British. He was authorised to issue full set of Merchant C.B's on personal charge of Master. Ship is operated by Imperial Oil Company Toronto. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1143/16)

"Town" Destroyers R.C.N. — In compliance with Admty. 2346/10. R.C.N. destroyer ex U.S.A. will be known as R.C.N. "Town" class destroyers. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0948/16)

NORA — Your 1114/4. N.C.S.O. Sydney's 1544/14. Local escort S.C. 6. reports straggler last seen 1845/29 45.13 N., 52.33 W. This might perhaps have been Estonian ship NORA. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1559/16)

Australia

ZEALANDIA — Local transport, with 792 troops, left Brisbane 09362/15 for Darwin (A.C.N.B., 01292/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WINDHUK — At Santos, reported preparing to leave shortly. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1943/16)

CERICO — Re 1847/14 from S.O.(I) Callao. Panama also reports CERICO expected to sail this week with German passengers for Japan. Funnel to be painted black. Japanese flag hoisted when outside territorial waters (B.2) (S.O.I. Kingston 0950/16)

HELGOLAND — My 2050/12. (Seamen ex-German HANNOVER leaving San Domingo for Port au Prince) Men have joined HELGOLAND (S.O.I. Kingston, 1451/15)

SPEZIA — Reported to be loading at Barcelona on 18/10 for Italy (D.S. 408)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA — At Fernando Po, reported to owners at Trieste on 8/10 that her cargo was "good". Has 600 tons fuel, boiler water exhausted, fresh water and provisions for one month. (D.S.407)

ADA MELLO — At Montevideo went alongside 15/10 to discharge cargo of maize bought locally (D.S. 408)

FRANCA FASSIO — (Reported sunk by submarine) Reported from Madrid that 5 survivors landed. (D.S. 408)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

Exchange of. — See Operations Against Vichy French.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked

BENLAWERS (torpedoed 6/10)

FOREST landed master and 10 other survivors of BENLAWERS at Bermuda 16/10. Master of BENLAWERS reports vessel torpedoed 1107Z/6 in position 053° 20' N., 026° 10' W. Vessel was proceeding independently speed 12½ knots zigzagging number 17, visibility very good, wind west force 5. No sign of U-Boat observed at any time. Distress message could not be sent. Survivors returning to U.K. in ORDUNA. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1223/16)

TREVISA

SSSS 57.23 N., 20.36 W., TREVISA torpedoed and sinking. Correction 57.24 N., 20.30 W., (Valentia Radio, 0153/16, 0205/16) SABRE, SARDONYX, OTTAWA and KEPPEL to investigate. (C. in C., W.A. 0333/16) S/M CLYDE informed. (V.A.S., 0334/16) Was in convoy S.C. 7. TREVISA bottom up. Propose to sink. 14 survivors in KEPPEL. SABRE returning to harbour. (OTTAWA, 0821/16) Your 0821 approved. (C. in C., W.A., 1143/16)

Foremost half of TRAVISA apparently full of lumber, holed, and on fire and believed sinking in position 057° 27' N., 020° 45' W but still danger to navigation at 1660 today. KEPPEL detached at 0840. Am proceeding to Clyde 16 knots. (OTTAWA, 1710/16)

CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10)

Suggest salvage tug be sent to pump out No 1 hold. My position course and speed at 0900, 55.26 N., 08. 10 W., 080° 6 knots. (CHESHIRE, 0921/16) Draught of water 49 ft forward, 16 ft aft. (CHESHIRE, 0831/16)

Submarines Reported

0945 — By aircraft, 49.24 N., 9.15 W., (Aircraft 217 Sqdn. 0945/16) Sighted on surface and seen to submerge. When first sighted was on course 160° speed 6 knots. (Aircraft 217 Sqdn. 0950/16) (C. in C., W.A., 1013/16, F.O. (S.) 1049/16)

1025 — By coast watcher Isle of Gruna, sighted 1 mile from shore. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1224/16) Trawler STORA sailed to search. (WESTERN ISLES, 1316/16)

1412 — By Empire flying boat, 44.25 N., 10.00 W., (C. in C. W.A., 1429/16, V.A.S. 1448/16) No indication of course but if inward bound would probably be making for Gironde. (D.D.I.(1525/16)

/1354....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1354	By Coastguard, Rattray Head, Conning Tower awash steering S. 045° Rattray Head 3 miles (B.2) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1509/16) 57.39 N., 1.45 W.
1510	Enemy submarine reported in 60° N., 15° to 16° W at 1510 (C. in C., W.A., 1609/16)
2020	Am over enemy submarine in 59.56 N., 15.00 W. (Aircraft D/210, 2020/16, C. in C., W.A., 2131/16) (See Submarines Attacked) (D.D.I.C. 2208/16, 2219/16)
0416	45.00 N., 16.00 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 407)
2348	D.F. indications at 2348/16 suggest possibili you are being shadowed by U-Boat. (D.D.I.C. 0055/17 to ANTHONY, VERITY etc.)
0115	A.F. message 58.38 N., 12.17 W., at 0015 G.M. (D.D.I.C. 0440/16)
0257	A.F.message 57.24 N., 20.30 W., at 0157 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0440/16)
0226	57.30 N., 22° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 407)
1106	55° N., 16° W., position approximate (D.S. 407)
0129	55.50 N., 14° W., position indefinite (D.S. 407)
2238	54.30 N., 14°-16° W. indefinite position (D.S. 408)
1717	57.30 N., 18°-20° W. indefinite position (D.S. 408)
1230 and 1440	58.30 N.,- 59.30 N., 12°-14° W., indefinite position (D.S. 408)
2035	53.58 N., 4.56 W., reported by Army lookout (C.4) (D.S. 408)
1920	54°-55° N., 6°-8° E., indefinite position. (D.S. 408)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No news.

German : 1 in about 45° N., 16° W at 0416/16
1 in 49° 24' N., 9° 15' W., at 0945/16 course 160° may reach Lorient p.m. 17th October.
1 small U/B in about 49° N., 11° W., bound northwards.
1 in about 55° N., 16° W., at 1106/16
1 in about 55° 50' N., 14° W at 0129/16.
1 was in 57° 24' N., 20° 30' W., at 0157/16.
1 in about 57° 30' N., 22° W at 0226/16
1 was in 58° 38' N., 12° 17' W at 0115/16
1 may be in about 60° N., 16° W following O.A. 228.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/16)

Submarines Attacked

0115 — Submarine sighted on surface position 058° 38' N., 012° 17' W. attacked with three patterns and lost contact. An continuing hunt with FOLKSTONE. Wesather report. (LEITH 0115/16)
My 0115. Contact not regained. All electric sweeps point to fact that Submarine dived under convoy after attack. Since then searching astern of Convoy with FOLKESTONE and HEARTSEASE. No escort was available to stand by position of attack. (LEITH 0531/16)

0945 — By aircraft with bombs. 49.24 N., 9.15 W., (D.S. 408) (See S/Ms Reported)

1115 — Periscope sighted and contact attacked. 55.32 N., 06.20 W., at 1115/16. (C. in C., W.A., 1553/16)

2020 — By aircraft 59.56 N., 15.35 W., Sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 220. Depth charged, no result seen. Fog. (A/C D/210, 2020/16, 15 group 2030/16)

Italian Submarines Sunk — In Red Sea. (See East Indies)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

—

Home Commands

KING GEORGE V

KING GEORGE V sailed from the Tyne at 0530/17 for Rosyth, escorted by NAIAD, BONAVENTURE and 6 destroyers.

FAME
ASHANTI
Ashore

At 0519/17 two of the destroyers, FAME and ASHANTI were reported ashore 4½ miles south of the Tyne, and at 0605 FAME reported that her boiler room was on fire.
Attempt to tow ASHANTI off the ground at high water today failed. The fire in FAME is under control.

KING GEORGE V arrived at Rosyth p.m. today.

6 ships torpedoed in Convoy

4 ships were torpedoed last night in Convoy O.B. 228 and two in Convoy S.C. 7.

CHESHIRE

CHESHIRE (torpedoed 1¼/10) was beached at -1230 today near Kilroot Point (Belfast)

E-Boat Attack on F.S. 11.

Convoy F.S. 11. was attacked by E-Boats at 2315 today, 20 miles N.E. of Yarmouth.
3 ships were disabled, either by torpedoes or mines.
SS BRYAN reports sinking an E-Boat.

E-Boat

The presence of an E. Boat was suspected early this morning between Lands End and Ushant. BROKE and BURZA were ordered to try to intercept.

Engagement with enemy Destroyers

4 enemy destroyers left Brest steering west about 0700 today. They were sighted by Coastal Command aircraft at 0719 at close range in low visibility. Convoys SL 60, HG 45 and OG 44 were ordered to steer westward. NEWCASTLE, EMERALD, JACKAL, JUPITER, KASHMIR, KELVIN and KIPLING (this force is known as Force F) proceeded to attack.
The enemy destroyers were reported at 1345 approximately 100 miles S.W. of Land's End steering north west at high speed, and at 1607 NEWCASTLE opened fire at extreme range; the enemy were making for Brest. Captain D 5 was also in touch.

/Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

—

Home Commands

KING GEORGE V	KING GEORGE V sailed from the Tyne at 0530/17 for Rosyth, escorted by NAIAD, BONAVENTURE and 6 destroyers.
FAME ASHANTI Ashore	At 0519/17 two of the destroyers, FAME and ASHANTI were reported ashore 4½ miles south of the Tyne, and at 0605 FAME reported that her boiler room was on fire. Attempt to tow ASHANTI off the ground at high water today failed. The fire in FAME is under control.
	KING GEORGE V arrived at Rosyth p.m. today.
6 ships torpedoed in Convoy	4 ships were torpedoed last night in Convoy O.B. 228 and two in Convoy S.C. 7.
CHESHIRE	CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10) was beached at -1230 today near Kilroot Point (Belfast)
E-Boat Attack on F.S. 11.	Convoy F.S. 11. was attacked by E-Boats at 2315 today, 20 miles N.E. of Yarmouth. 3 ships were disabled, either by torpedoes or mines. SS BRYAN reports sinking an E-Boat.
E-Boat	The presence of an E. Boat was suspected early this morning between Lands End and Ushant. BROKE and BURZA were ordered to try to intercept.
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/Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Engagement with Enemy Destroyers, Contd

Aircraft attack on Force F was expected and it was not possible to give adequate protection to our forces. At 1801 enemy aircraft unsuccessfully bombed our forces. Blenheim bombers, accompanied by fighters attacked, without stopping the the enemy destroyers, which escaped to Brest.

British Air Activity

All operations by Coastal Command early last night were cancelled on account of weather.
Early this morning at least 3 out of 4 large calibre bombs were exploded in an attack on Brest. Lorient also was successfully bombed.

Bomber Command attacked Kiel Docks; no hits were made on GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST but bursts were observed close to the target and it is believed much damage was done to the docks. BISMARCK and Hamburg docks were attacked; results we re not observed. Docks at Cuxhaven, Bremen and Bordeaux were also attacked.

Enemy Air Activity

Some damage was done at Chatham dockyard last night.

Damage was also caused last night in the London Dock area.

A Belgian trawler was bombed and machine gunned this evening 23 miles south of Kinsale and lost her trawling gear.

Mining

Mines were laid last night in the Gironde estuary.

An enemy aircraft was seen, suspected laying mines, east of Wick during last night. Mine laying was also carried out off the east coa and in the Thames Estuary,

/KINGSTON.....

MOST SECRET

17.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

KINGSTON CAIRNGORM (A/S trawler) was mined and sunk in the Channel today whilst intow.

Two ships were mined today neat Aldeburgh L.V. and one was damaged by near mine explosions in the Thames Estuary.

Operations Against Vichy French

Four French submarines and a tanker, escorted by M/S sloop LA BATAILLEUSE and French aircraft passed Gibraltar in a westerly direction about noon today. A British aircraft shadowed them to ensure that they went to Casablanca.

A report was received today that STRASBOURG and 20 units were leaving Toulon. RENOWN was brought to short notice and a patrol was ordered to be established to eastward of the Straits of Gibraltar.

PRIMAUGUET, an oiler and 2 submarines are reported to have sailed south from Dakar p.m. today. DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL were ordered to patrol off Cape St. Anne to intercept them and instruct them to return to Dakar or Casablanca.

Mediterranean

Blenheims today attacked shipping at Benghazi, scoring direct hits on two ships.

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence Of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. — At 0200/17 (D.C.0201/17) At 1400/17 (D.C.1420/17).

Nore Command. Notice for Steam. — Air R/C unsatisfactory. Keep steam at half hours notice till 0900/17. (C.in C. Nore 0519/17).

Policy.

My 1421/14/8 owing to major damage to ZULU, FAME, ASHANTI and VERSATILE and minor damage to COSSACK and SIKH I am afraid I shall have to withdraw two of 12th D.F. from North Western Approaches now. Further in view of withdrawal of DUNCAN, FEARLESS and FOXHOUND on about 25th October two more of 12th D.F. will have to be withdrawn then.
(C.in C. H.F. 1354/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1354/17. Will DOUGLAS and KEPPEL meet your immediate requirements.
(C.in C. W.A. 1749/17 to C.in C.H.F.)

ISIS To replace FAME in Force H. — It will be necessary to provide another Destroyer for Force H. to replace FAME

Either ISIS of ELECTRA are suggested.

Request your remarks.
(V.C.N.S. 1522/17 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 1522/17. ISIS. (C.in C. H.F. 2300/17 to Adty).

HOOD. — Your 1555/15. In her present state H.M.S. HOOD lacks the first essential of a battle cruiser, namely highspeed I strongly urge that we take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the information given in your 1541/16 * to restore to her this attribute now.
(C.in C. H.F. 2329/17 to Adty).

Movements.

REVENGE. — Have steam at half an hours notice.
(C.in C. W.A. 0957/17 to REVENGE).

AUSTRALIA. — Adty. 2333/16. Route to Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1221/17).

Western Approaches. — Situation at 2000/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1345/17 to Clyde).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd).

Dover.	Patrols for night 17/18. (V.A. Dover 1428/17).
Western Channel.	Night report. (C.in C. W.A. 1615/17 and 1905/17).
Corvettes.	Allocation of, amendment to 1815/15. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1633/17).
2 E/Boats off Teignmouth.	Operations. 2 E/Boats reported in 120° Teignmouth 7 miles at 0205. Aircraft will co-operate with you. (C.in C. W.A. 0243/17 to BROKE, BURZA) Position 49° 15'N., 9° 43'W. Course 70°. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. W.A. 0427/17 to BROKE). Cancel my 0427. Position of E/Boat 49° 27'N., 4° 43'W. at 0430. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. W.A. 0457/17 to BROKE).
KING GEORGE V. (Operation S.A) See also casualties and defects re FAME and ASHANTI.	Left Tyne at 0530/17 for Rosyth. Speed 16 knots. Doubtful if F.O.C.15th C.S. and Destroyer Screen are in company. Proceed best speed to meet KING GEORGE V and provide A/S protection. (C.in C. H.F. 0751/17 to FEARLESS) FAME, ASHANTI ashore. Request tugs immediately off Mouth at Whitburn. (FAME 0519 and 0524/17 to N.O.I.C. Tyne). Send tugs and fire fighting appliances. Boiler room on fire. (FAME 0605/17 to N.O.I.C. Tyne). Request Zero hour and confirmation of time of departure. Visibility 8 cables. Have not made contact with Destroyers. Situation unknown. Cannot get into touch with them. (F.O. 15th C.S. 0647/17 to C.in C. Rosyt Have you sighted ship concerned. (C.S.15 0723/17 to SIKH) Your 0647. Ships passed Tyne Pierhead at 0535. (C.in C. Rosyth 0728/17 to F.O. 15 C.S) Join me with all despatch at 20.D.Buoy, course 345°. (C.S.15 0732/17 to SIKH) Proceed with all despatch towards Newcastle to meet and escort KING GEORGE V to May Island. (C.in C. H.F. 0753/17 to BEAGLE).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(Contd.)

KING GEORGE V.
(Operation SA)
See also
Casualties and
Defects re FAME
and ASHANTI.

Proceed with all despatch to meet KING GEORGE V and escort her to May Island. Ship left Tyne at 0530 speed 16 knots. Do not impede sweepers operating in Swept Channels. (C.in C. H.F. 0818/17 to WESTMINSTER, WALLACE)

Preliminary enquiries show that Destroyer proceeding to RV with KING GEORGE V off Tyne Pierhead took departure from 20 Q Buoy in mistake for 20 C Buoy which latter was not sighted in the prevailing heavy rain. (C.in C. H.F. 2009/17 to Adty).

Consider position of ASHANTI and FAME precarious. If wind and weather are easterly from whatever quarter consider salvage will be very difficult. Also danger of heavy ground swell in this area. Request best salvage expert may be sent to collaborate with Commander Smith, Salvage Officer, N.E. Coast, as soon as possible. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2039/17 to Adty).

4 Destroyers
off Ushant.

Coastal Command A/C reports 4 Destroyers in 48° 24'N. 5° 33'W., steering West at 0719.(V.A.S.0842/17 to Submarines Area B). (C.in C. W.A. 1003/17 to Ships). Cancel my 0842. (V.A.S. 1011/17).

NEWCASTLE, EMERALD, JACKAL, JUPITER, KASHMIR, KELVIN, KIPLING proceeding. (C.in C. W.A. 1027/17 to C.in C. H.F.) (V.A.S.1049/17.

Ships are to form Force F. (C.in C. W.A. 1311/17 to NEWCASTLE)

Convoys keep as far westwards as endurance permits. Shall assume they will reach R/V 12 hours late. (C.in C. W.A. 1341 and 1343/17).

You were reported by enemy aircraft at 1200. (C.in C. W.A. 1353/17 to Force F.)

CAIRO and available destroyers raise steam with all despatch for full speed. (C.in C. W.A. 1517/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

4 Destroyers off Ushant. Contd).

4 Destroyers reported in 48° 20'N., 6° 10'W. steering N.N.W. at high speed at 1345. (C.in C. W.A. 1521/17 to Force F.)

Cancel my 1517. (C.in C. W.A. 1623/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Enemy Air attack imminent on Force F. (Plymouth W/T. 1535/17).

4 Destroyers bearing south 10 miles course south. My position 49° 29'N. 6° 40'W. (D.5 1612 and 1624/17)

Engaging Enemy Destroyers at extreme range. My position 49° 25'N. 6° 44'W. (NEWCASTLE 1612/17).

4 Destroyers bearing 190 °distance 14 ml My position 49° 19'N. 6° 45'W. course 185°, speed 28 knots. (NEWCASTLE 1632/17

5 Blenheims Fighters leaving 1700 to attack Enemy Destroyers. (C.in C. W.A. 1651/17 to Force F.)

My 1612. Enemy retiring towards Brest at high speed. Am chasing. (NEWCASTLE 1710/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 1651. For Fighter read Bomber. 3 Blenheim Fighters are leaving now to escort you. (C.in C. W.A. 1713/17 to Force F.)

At 1730 my position 48° 46'N., 6° 35'W, course 150°, speed 32 knots. (NEWCASTLE 1730/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

Unable to give adequate air protection. Withdraw at your discretion. (A.C.W.A. 1756/17 to NEWCASTLE).

On withdrawal return to Plymouth. M.G.B's will be patrolling S.E. of Start (C.in C. W.A. 1857/17 to Force F).

Enemy have asked for assistance of Bombers. (C.in C. W.A. 1819/17 to Force F.)

My 1743/17. Destroyers have retreated to Brest. (C.in C. W.A. 1943/17 to Ships).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols T. and O.

Owing to Mines North of 54A.Buoy, Patrol T will not be carried out today.
Patrol O by 3 of 16th D.F. Route.
(C.in C. Nore. 1030/17 to D.16).

Weather permitting 60 ft. M.T.B's to operate between Flushing and Ijmuiden tonight. S.O. Submarines Harwich to be consulted about movements of own Submarines. Subject to restrictions necessary in connection with own Submarines any vessel met East of 3° East may be attacked without challenge. Any large concentration of ships to be reported immediately.
(C.in C. Nore 1238/17 to BEEHIVE).

Iceland.
(ARGUS)

Adty's. 1649/15. Route for ARGUS escorted by BEAGLE, HURRICANE, ACHATES.
(C.in C. W.A. 1409/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Intend sailing ARGUS, escorted at 1600/18. Speed 17 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1736/17 to Adty).

Operations ACTIVE and PUNGENT.

C.in C. Portsmouth's 2217/9. Proposed disposal of ships. (C.in C. Nore 1544/17 to Adty).

Force D. (Tromso).

My position at 1600, 68° 51'N., 4° 36'E, course 239°, speed 15 knots.
(S.O. Force D. 1600/17 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S) (R.A.D. H.F. 1828/17 to DUNCAN).

Portsmouth. Outer Patrol Line.

Your 1212/21/9, para C.1 and 2. Consequent on Outer Patrol Lines being established further seaward, request line be amended as follows.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1647/17 to Adty).

GASFIRE.

Totally disabled 6 miles N.N.W. of Smiths Knoll. (GASFIRE 2220/17 to North Foreland Radio). One ship in convoy torpedoed. One enemy Motor Boat bearing 30° one mile. My position 52° 53'N., 2° 8'E. (VERDUN 2314 and 2316/17) Enemy has disappeared to N.E. (VERDUN 2320/17).
Tug Norman from Yarmouth proceeding to help of GASFIRE now. (C.in C. Nore 2349/17 to VERDUN).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

GASFIRE. (Contd.)

Request fighter protection for 3 disabled M/V's in tow of tugs from daylight 18th. till arrival by Yarmouth about noon. (C.in C. Nore 0030/18 to H.Q.F.C.).
Tug MURIA and KENIA sailed 0105 to assist GASFIRE. Tug NORMAN standing by GEORGE BALFOUR in Yarmouth Roads. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0108/18 to Adty).
4 Tugs being sent from Yarmouth.
(C.in C. Nore 0313/18 to Capt.D 16)

Please sail two tugs with despatch to meet disabled M/V's GASFIRE, P.L.M.14 and HAUXLEY and assist tow to Humber. Estimated position noon 18th 53° 10'N., 01° 11' E proceeding slow speed by searched channels. MALCOLM, WIVERN WORCESTER and Yarmouth tugs in Company. (C.in C. Nore 0430/18 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

GASFIRE in tow in 52° 57'N., 2° 2' E. speed 15 knots.

PINTAIL in company. (WIVERN 0610/18 to Adty).

PUFFIN standing by three disabled ships in 52° 51'N., 2° 8'E. GASFIRE P.L.M.14 and HAUXLEY, last two ships abandoned chance of salvage all ships good.
PUFFIN has numerous survivors on board some require urgent medical attention.
VERDUN sending Medical Officer and rejoining convoy. S.S. BRYAN reports sinking an E/Boat.
(VERDUN 0038/18 to C.in C. Nore).

O.23.

Submarines.

To leave patrol 1800/18. Route.
(Capt. S.9 1041/17 to O.23).

Positions.
TIGRIS.

For following 24 hours at 0700/18.
(V.A.S. 1641/17 and 1928/17)
Movements. (C.in C. W.A. 1837/17 to Force F).

British Air Activity.

Kiel, Hamburg, Cuxhaven, Bremen, Heligoland, Bordeaux, St. Malo.

A/C attacks on night 16/17.(H.Q.B.C. 1834/17).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Rosyth Area

My 1840/16. R/C cancelled owing to low visibility. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0806/17)
All Air patrols, searches, and escorts postponed owing to weather except escorts for W.N. 23, S.L. 49 A., and H.X. 78. (C. in C., Rosyth 0834/17)
Air search for 18/10 (C. in C., Rosyth 2002/17)

Aircraft Landed in Northern Lapland

Newspaper report. Crew of 2 interned. (C. in C., H.F., 0941/17 to B.C.I) Please signal particulars and names (D.N.I. 1826/17 to N.A. Stockholm)

Bombing of Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse

Request action on Admty's 1549/16 (Air Ministry 0950/17 to Bomber Command)

Operation D.H. (Tromso)

Request R/C of Norwegian Coast from 61° N., to 62° 50' N., may be flown p.m./18 (C. in C. H.F. 2035/17 to C. in C., Rosyth) This will be arranged if possible but doubtful if aircraft will be able to take off. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2244/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

S.A. Patrols

None was effective this evening owing to low visibility. (C. in C., Rosyth 2128/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Attack on 4 Enemy Destroyers

Aircraft attacked at 1820/17 in 48° 35' N., 5° 50' W., Near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2150/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

M/V Attacked

In 53° 33' N., 5° 45' E. Result not seen. Air Ministry 2222/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity

German Meteorological Flights

Operate in Faroes Area about 0930 to 1030 daily. (C. in C., H.F. 0934/17 to F.O.C. 1 D.C.S.)

Deptford

One H.E. Bomb dropped on Royal Victoria Yard on night of 15/10. Damage estimated £300 (O.C.W. Deptford 1010/17)

Chatham

At 0010/17 a Bomb fell in Dock Road outside Dockyard Damage estimated £500 (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1334/17)

/ Pembroke Dock...

MOST SECRET

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Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Pembroke Dock — One aircraft dropped H.E. and Incendiary Bombs near Pembroke Dock at 2040 and 2110/16. No damage to Admty property (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1501/17 to Admty.)

Mining

Enemy Mining — Enemy aircraft suspected laying mines in following areas:- 58. 20' N., to 58° 30' N., and 2° 20' W., to 2° 35' W (C. in C.& Rosyth 0122/17)

Convoy F.S.10
FRANKRIG
GEORGE BALFOUR
Mined — FRANKRIG and GEORGE BALFOUR in Convoy F.S.10 mined. Picked up entire crew FRANKRIG. VESPER standing by GEORGE BALFOUR. Position of FRANKRIG wreck 230° Aldeburgh L.V. 12,900 yds. Dan Buoy laid (HOLDERNESS 0715/17) VESPER taking GEORGE BALFOUR in tow, Intend trying to get her to Lowestoft.(HOLDERNESS 0740/17) Tugs MURIA and KENIA have sailed to assist you (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0935/17) Rescue tug NORMAN hasbeen sent. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0958/17) Request fighter protection for VESPER towing one merchant ship. Code word "ADAPT". Forthwith today until arrival at Lowestoft (C. in C., Nore, 1016/17) 19 Survivors from FRANKRIG landed Yarmouth. All crew safe and uninjured. Other details. (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth 1944/17)

Faroes — Explosion in Hesto Fiord at 0700/17. Wreckage of fishing smack found 0945/17 in 061° 54' N., 006° 42' W. Local vessels advised not to navigate Hesto or Skopen Fiords during dark hours or in fog. Surface failures and drifting mines are being dealt with as rapidly as possible with existing resources. Moored surface failures are submerged except at slack water. At least one of moored failures has been exploded by gunfire. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1203/17)

DUNDALK
Mined 16/10 — DUNDALK was mined in 036° 4 miles from 54A buoy at 1831/16. SUTTON took DUNDALK in tow proceeding to Harwich but at 0242/17 DUNDALK sank in position 51° 56' 54" N., 1° 26' 42" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1215/17)

/River Thames....

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

River Thames

Cancel My 0500/16 all parachute mines known to have dropped in the river have exploded except one inshore of Church Hole Tier in Lower Pool navigation in river may be resumed ships are to keep well to northward when passing Church Hole Tier. (F.O.I.C. London, 1300/16)

Rosyth

Red mine exploded in A.M.Q.Z.S. 175 in 56° 6' 42" N., 2° 47' W (C. in C., Rosyth 1013/17) Two red mines exploded by LL trawlers today. Positions. Technical details. (C. in C., Rosyth 2151/17)

Operation D.8.42

Two Humber destroyers to be detailed as escort (C. in C., Nore 1353/17) Intend to sail from Spurn Pt. 0730/21. Laying will begin 000/22 (S.O.M/L Irmingham 1615/17) Fighter protection will be asked for during daylight 21/10 and 22/10 (C. in C., Nore, 1817/17) Your 353. ICARUS and IMPULSIVE detailed (S.O. 20th D.F. 1835/17)

M.T.B. 106
Bunk 16/10

Technical details (C. in C., Nore, 1741/17)

Thames
Approaches

One red mine detonated by LL sweepers 6 cables 238° Mid Shoebury Buoy far inside. (C. in C., Nore., 1907/17)

Two mines exploded close to SS ETHYLENE in F.S. Convoy near No 17 Barrow Buoy today Wednesday. D.Y. coil of ETHYLENE was out of action. (C. in C., Nore, 2225/17)

FAME
ASHANTI
Ashore.
See Also
Movements
KING GEORGE V

FAME and ASHANTI went ashore at top of H.W.S. at L.W. ships are practically high and dry. Salvage Officer says:-
Ships will have to be lightened as much as possible by removal of stores, guns etc., Bottom rocky and owing to shoal water not possible to get tugs alongside. Ground tackle will have to be used for refloating. Efforts being made to control fire in FAME by shore pumps and Foam extinguishers. (F.O.i/c Tyne 1019/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Unknown Ship — Your 2337/16 [illegible] was in 200° Eddystone 23 miles and SS BLACKTOFT 3 miles South of her 2200, both steering E.N.E. and having poor signal lamps. (BROKE 006/17 to C. in C., W.A.

6 Destroyers — Distant 10 miles. My position 49° 16' N., 6° 38' W. Speed 8 knots. (A/C 217 Sqdn 1652/17 (C. in C., W.A. 2150/17 to Adty.)

My 1657/15 and 2059/15. Abnormality in German W/T traffic remains consistent with intended activity in Southern North Sea and Channel U-Boats in North Sea continue to be included. Traffic since p.m./16 clearly suggest the additional probability of naval movements out of the Skagerrak, possibly to the Northwards. (A.C.N.S.H. 1759/17 to C's in C.)

E-Boat — One M.T.B. bearing 120° 0.5 miles distant. My position 52° 53' N., 2° 8' E. (VERDUN 2338/17)

Kiel — 2 Warships at Schleusen on night 16/17. (H.Q.B.C. 1834/17)

Enemy Morale — Canal Area reports Frenchmen who left occupied France on 1st October told reliable source that R.A.F. action had been most successful and morale of German Invasion Troops had consequently lowered. Dewoitine factory near Paris is now building fighter aircraft for Germans. Baudoin Foreign Minister is becoming increasingly pro-British. Reliability B.2. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1043/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KOSMOS — Due Curacoa 10/10 from Walrus Bay has not arrived. Freetown has no information since departure 12/9 (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1131/16)

MARLY — See East Indies

Admiral Plymouth NR 10 Group R.A.F. Rudloe. Received 1325 G.M.T. unknown station alleged to have used distress call only particulars available Mombiz barge NR 1 1200 G.M.T. Ajem lat. 40.30 N., remainder jammed. Particulars doubtful. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1445/17)

ASHANTI
FAME — Unsuccessful attempt was made to tow ASHANTI off at top of high water. Operations abandoned for night. Fire in FAME is under control (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1823/17)

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MOST SECRET

17.10.1940
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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping**
H.X. 79	To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 1020/17 to MONTCLARE) Meet (C. in C., W.A. to JASON etc. 1240/17) Meet (C. in C., W.A., to WHITEHALL etc., 1740/17) Netherland S/M O.14 in company (C. in C., W.A., 1100/17)
O.B. 229	To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 1030/17 to WHITEHALL)
S.C. 7	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1040/17 to LEITH) If not in contact, join S.C. 7 forthwith (C. in C., W.A., 1137/17)
O.A. 229	To alter course. (C. in C., W.A., 1050/17 to JASON)
O.A. 231	Route (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1027/17) CURACOA to transfer to (R.A.D. H.F. 2000/17)
O.A. 230	CURACOA in vicinity (CURACOA 0805/17)
W.N. 23	Position and speed (HUGH WALPOLE 1320/17) (R.A.D. H.F. 2000/17)
C.E. 14	Request air protection (C. in C., Nore, 1540/17)
H.X. 78 A	S.O., ROMAN, CURACOA to transfer to. (R.A.D. H.F., 2000/17)
S.L. 60 H.G. 45 O.G. 44	4 destroyers left Brest. Convoys to steer to westward (C. in C., W.A., 0859/17, to WELLINGTON, PRETORIA CASTLE, GLEANER) Destroyers have returned. Unnecessary to keep to westward. (C. in C., W.A., 1829/17, 1838/17)
S.L. 50	Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D. 1222/17)
S.L.A.49	Time of arrival Kinnaird Head. CURACOA joined (ABERDEEN, 1030/17)
O.B. 230	Sailed 1255/17, escort CLARE, MALLOW, ANEMONE (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1332/17)
SVEADROTT CASTOR	My 1723/15. To be boarded and examined during passage through Skopen Fiord. (D.O.D. (H) to A.C.O.S., 1131/17) Route (D.D.I.C. 2148/17, D.O.D.(H) 2359/17) Cancel my 1739/16. Swedish Admty informs me SVEADROTT and CASTOR due Christiansand p.m./18 and sail again 19/10. Route. (N.A. Stockholm, 1632/17)
Methil	Cancel my 1459/1 (Instructions for ships entering Methil) (D.T.D., 2112/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

PRIMAUGUET

Reported French cruiser PRIMAUGUET with oiler and two submarines has sailed south from Dakar. Date unknown.
DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL to patrol on a line 220° from Cape Saint Anne. DORSETSHIRE between Cape Saint Anne 230 miles and 380 miles CORNWALL between Cape Saint Anne 230 miles and 50 miles using aircraft as possible. If met PRIMAUGUET and accompanying vessels are to be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar. Force is to be used if necessary but S.O. is to be informed that it is hoped this will be avoided. If ships agree to proceed as directed they are to be shadowed until further instructions received. Endeavour is to be made to obtain definite guarantee from S.O. that he will proceed as directed. If submarines are in company S.O. is to be informed any attempt by submarine to dive will be treated as hostile act and immediate retaliatory action will be taken against surface ships and submarines. (C. in C., S.A., 0119/17 amended 1031/17)

Your 2322/16. Any idea as to date PRIMAUGUET sailed. (C. in C., S.A., to P.O.I.C.S., 0213/17) No date given. Origin of rumour. (DELHI 0835/17)
Informing KENYA and asking if sighted to report position, course and speed. (C. in C., S.A., 0225/17)

Your 1615/16. DELHI informs me COMMANDANT DOMINE ordered to abandon patrol and return to Duala by Governor of Cameroons. Request early information whether it is intended that de Gaulle's promise to co-operate with free French ships watch upon Libreville will be implemented. Advance notice of Free French ships and any available intelligence regarding Gabon Ports is also required. Immediate information including source and reliability of rumour about PRIMAUGUET southward movement from Dakar communicated by (?DOOCHET) to DELHI is required and also any information regarding date of suspected movement. (F.O.I.C.S. 0842/17 to Spears Mission.

French Submarines

French submarines MONGE, VENGEUR, L'ESPOIR PEGASE with tanker IOT escorted by French Sloop M/S LA BATAILLEUSE and French aircraft sighted by VIDETTE 0843/17 in position 096° Almina Point 23 proceeding westwards. (F.O.C.N.A. 1020/17)
My 1020/17. Vessels passed westbound at 1115/17. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144/17)

/Darkened.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Darkened Ships Treat as Hostile

In the event of a darkened warship approaching Straits at night may I assume that Vichy Government understand that such ships are liable to be treated as hostile and attacked without warning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1510/17, to Admty)
Your 1510/17. Yes (V.C.N.S. 2240/17)

Aircraft Patrols

Daily Summary Operations. Surface reconnaissances 2 routine A/S patrols 1 air craft shadowing French Force of 4 submarines 1 tanker which passed Straits westbound at 1200 today. Object of latter to ensure destination of force is Casablanca Area covered by patrols Spartel to 4 degrees west. Flying curtailed owing adverse weather (200 Group 1710/17)

STRABOURG

Report received (B.2) At 1300/17 that STRASBOUR and 20 units are leaving Toulon (D.D.I.C. 1856/17)

AUSTRALIA

My 1856/15 (?17) Cancel my 2333/16 if movement has begun. AUSTRALIA with transports and destroyers are to return to Gibraltar (D.O.D.(F) 1921/17 to F.O.C.N.A., 2010/17)

RENOWN

My 1856/17. RENOWN is to come to short notice for steam. Establish a patrol to eastward of Straits (D.O.D.(F) 1936/17, to F.O.C.N.A. and F.O.H)

French Troops

Report from Governor Bathurst entirely reliable states one Battalion of T.S.F. were transhipped from Casablanca to Dakar and there transferred October 15th to French liner INDO-CHINOIS, reported to be leaving Dakar for Conakry and Pointe Noire. Aircraft patrol reports large merchant ship entering Conakry 0800/17. (S.O.I. Freetown, 10002/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Movements

CITY OF DIEPPE sails 17/10 for Freetown. Route. GALLANT providing escort until dark 18/10. REINA DEL PACIFICO, ESCAPADE, FORTUNE expected Gibraltar a.m./18. AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN escorting KAIPAKI KARANJA sail 1800/17, Route. FAULKNOR, FURY FORESTER, FORESIGHT, position, thence Gibraltar. KINGSTON JACINTH due Gibraltar 1600/18 from patrol off Lisbon. (F.O.C.N.A. 1254/17)

ETTRICK
KARANJA
and Escort

Admty. 2333/16. Intend to sail ETTRICK and KARANJA escorted by AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN at 2000/17. GRIFFIN will be relieved by ESCAPADE. Estimated speed of advance 12½ knots. Route. (F.O.C.N.A.,1350/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

KABALO
survivors

Following intercepted from Horta Radio (begins
Lifeboat of SS KABALO with survivors picked up by SS PANAM in position 032° 03' N. 030° 00' W. (Ends)
KABALO sailed Clyde 3/10 for Freetown and would probably not have reached above position before 14/10.
Loss might be due to a submarine, but thought more likely that there is a raider in this area. (D.D.I.C. 1803/17)

ORAO

Your 1553/14. Have you any information about ORAO. (D.T.D. 1829/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KINGSTON
SAPPHIRE

Your 1830/16. Assuming Spanish trawler effecting rescue was merchant vessel and not armed trawler, survivors should be released under Article 13 of 10th Convention, see Oppenheim, Vol 2 p. 595 and F.O. Tel No 82, Saving (Rd of M. 2107/17 to M.A. Madrid)

German Ships
Vigo

My 1550/14. No change in German ships so fur but 2 lorry loads of cases from Barcelona received for loading today. (Consul, Vigo, 1905/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CORNWALL
DORSETSHIRE

My 0119/17 (See Operations Against Vichy French) CORNWALL sails for U.K. p.m./20. DORSETSHIRE with convoy W.S. Three a.m./19. Ships are to leave patrol so as to arrive Freetown, CORNWALL 1500/19. DORSETSHIRE 0600/18. (C. in C., S.A., 1159N/17)

H.S. 3.

Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1356/17)

Cruisers

Your 1731/14 is concurred in. In view of your 1131/15 it seems that the better area in which to operate this cruiser is off Freetown. All 8" cruisers are fully employed. Consideration being given to 1 Or 2 A.M.Cs from Western Patrol being sent south in which case they could be employed to the westward of Cape Verde Islands. This movement cannot take place at present. Requested you will make what arrangements you think best to implement the necessity outlined in para 1 of my 1849/12. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2346/17 to C. in C., S.A.)

2 British Interned at Rufisque

Suggesting question of exchange with members of crew of POITIERS (scuttled off Dakar 16/9) be taken up. (C. in C., S.A., 2319/17)

My 2319/17. For Norwegian KORSHOLM read Swedish KORSHOLM (C. in C., S.A., 1057/18)

Mediterranean

790. I am fully in agreement except as stated below with V.A.Malta's appreciation of Malta situation as given in his Malta number 468/0702/6/20 of 12/9.
2. Para 14. It should be possible to operate light forces from Malta before April 1941.
3. I consider that a 4 month as opposed to a 6 month reserve of supplies at Malta is acceptable. Experience has shown that supplie can be passed in and this lower reserve will relieve already heavy convoy escort commitments of Mediterranean Fleet.
4. The total force required is:- 4 Minesweepers 2 LL sweepers 5 A/S vessels. 2 vessels to combine both LL sweeping and A/S duties would serve if these are available. (C. in C., Med. 1131/17)

/Operation....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation B.S. REGULUS	Operation B.S. cancel my 1407/11. Leave present patrol forthwith and establish patrol in area D 030° 34' 017° 44'-000°-90 - 40. Object of patrol interception of traffic between Tripoli (AF)Benghazi direct and Tripoli (AF) Benghazi via Kirte. Attention called to my 1452/17, possibility of mines south of Benghazi. (Capt. S.I. 1911/17, to REGULUS)
IMPERIAL Mined	Board of enquiry on damage to IMPERIAL found explosion was due to a moored contact mine which struck some part of the ship right aft under tiller flat. All proper steps were taken to control damage, and death of one rating and injury to another were directly due to the explosion. Position of ship at the time was 035° 34" N., 014° 34' E No blame attributable to anyone. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1409/17)
Enemy Tactics	Grateful for any information on (a) Tactics adopted by Italian Torpedo aircraft. (b) Counter measures which are recommended including formation of units attacked. (c) What tactics were employed by Destroyers that A JAX attacked and what illuminants on both sides. (S.O. Force H., 0930/17. to C. in C. Med.)
Corvettes	Your 1113/4 and 1421/14. Regretted these vessels will not be available. Corvettes now in commission are fitted with A/S only and fully employed in W. Approaches. First four to be completed with A/S and M/S will be detailed for Mediterranean. (D.C.D. (F) to be C. in C., Med. 1217/17)
Coming Operation	Your 1421/14. Para (ii) allowing 12 hours darkness and 14½ knots made good convoy leaving longitude of Gelita Island at nightfall would be about 145 miles from Malta at dawn passing north of Piraeus Bank. Para (iv) to enable operation to take place in first week of November consider sailing of MT ships from U.K. should be expedited. (S.O. Force H. 0914/17 to C. in C., Med.)

/French Convoys...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

French Convoys	Latest information regarding movements of French Convoys, ships H.M. Government granted safe passage but surface vessesl may board for identification. Guarantees have been given that no cargo will be carried. Convoy A. PORTHOS DJENNE FLORIDA leaves Beirut 17/10 arrives Marseilles 23/10. Convoy B ANDRELEBON SAGITTAIRE JEAN L.D. leaves Beirut 20/10 arrives Marseilles 27/10 T.O.O. 1519/17. (C. in C., Med. 1521/17)
Spain	Bi-weekly report (N.A. Madrid 1730/17)
Sinking of Enemy Destroyers 12/10.	My 1045/14. AJAX action: At 0153/12 destroyers sighted on starboard bow down moon on opposite course and AJAX opened fire. Almost immediately afterwards second destroyer sighted on port bow, also on opposite course engaged by port four inch. 2nd Enemy scored two hits on bridge structure and one amidships above water-line causing fire in central store and adjacent compartment. First enemy (ARTIGLIERE) then appeared to be stopped and burning fiercely, subsequently sunk by YORK. AJAX turned to engage second Destroyer which shortly afterwards blew up.

2. Meanwhile third Destroyer was sighted. This was engaged after second enemy blew up and forthwith blown up. These were AIRONE and one other of same class. Range on opening fire approximately 4000, 2000, 3000 yards respectively.

3. During the third engagement two larger destroyers of Cruisers sighted at long range on opposite course to AJAX and making to north west. Rear ship altered to similar course to AJAX and was engaged but retired out of range under smoke. Course was altered in pursuit for a short time but target went out of sight and as it was apparent AJAX was not overhauling either ship action was broken off.

4. Re recognition Signals by enemy

5. Considerable difficulty experienced in AJAX in appreciating situation owing to flash of own guns whereas enemy used flashless propellant and efficient tracers. Total of 7 hits by enemy all bursting on impact.

6. Torpedo tracks also reported. AJAX fired four torpedoes possibly one hit.

/7.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Sinking of Enemy Destroyers 12/10-Contd.

7. AJAX damage (details)

8. Casualties as in my 1027/15.

9. AJAX was handled with resolution and skill This was the first night shooting of this newly commissioned ship.
(C. in C., Med., 1831/17)

Air Report

Operational Summary No 129. period ending 1200 hours 17/10. Egypt. Night 15/16 October night attacks continued on Italian bases in Libya, 1800 hours 2 Bombers 216 Squadron attacked Tobruk independently. Bombs fell across the town and 100 yards north of the submarine jetty, incendiaries starting a fire near the naval barracks, 3 heavy bombs fell across 3 ships in harbour. 1820 hours 4 Blenheims 55 Squadron operating independently made high level attacks on Bardia Capuzzo and Sollum. Bombs fell on the shore at Bardia and across the Fort at Capuzzo. Results at Sollum not observed. 2030 hours 3 Wellingtons 70 Squadron attacked independently military buildings at Tobruk. Results not observed. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1242/17)

A. 842. Part III, 17/10.
1 Sunderland, 230 Sqdn. despatched to assist trawlers attack, Submarine position 31° 20' N., 29° 25' E., Submarine not located, bombs during on air (?) Bubble. No result observed.
Night 16/17, 1901 and 2059 hours 2 enemy aircraft operating independently attacked Alexandria, 1 Gladiator 274 Sqdn engaged first raider effects not observed.
Second Gladiator did not sight second raider, no damage or casualties reported.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1244/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Aden.
Air Attacks

Small paraffin incendiaries dropped by Italian aircraft at Aden near crater on 16/10 and lit up when released. Similar bombs dropped at Perim on 12/10. (C. in C., E.I., 11242/17)

MARLY
?Sunk

Norwegian 1115 tons. Sent S.O.S. reporting sinking and taking to boats 2337/Z/15 18.30 N., 72. 21 E., HECTOR and INVESTIGATOR ordered to assist. No trace found. Must be consid ered lost. HECTOR returned Bombay 13302/17. INVESTIGATOR returned Bombay 14302/16 with considerable damage in cyclone. (C. in C., E.I., 1852/Z/17)

Djibuti

Situation, appreciation, and urging we afford no facilities to French for Military evacuation. (C. in C., M.E., to W.O. 0430/17)

China

Shipping

Recommend (a) Wheelock ships trading constantly to Japanese waters be gradually withdrawn to Indian trade. In default voluntary carriage ships to be requisitioned. (b) Restriction of Norwegian charters to waters outside Japanese control. (ii) reference (a), several ships of these lines are on time charter to or otherwise controlled by Japanese interests who are believed to be deliberately keeping them in and near Japanese waters. (C. in C., China 0223Z/17)

America & West Indies

CARADOC
To Intercept
French M.V.

My 1052/13. CHARLES L.D. expected to leave Martinique for Casablanca with cargo of sugar about 20/10. On your departure from Antigua proceed to patrol to eastwards of Martinique to intercept her. If possible avoid being sighted by aircraft or from shore. Any other French ships encountered other than those on inter Island trade are also to be intercepted and sent to Trinidad under armed guard. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/17)

Suspicious
Vessel
CYMBELINE

Your 1635/22/9. Master CYMBELINE has been interviewed and stated at about 0900 on 30/8 he sighted a suspicious vessel to southward. CYMBELINE altered course North and on being followed sent out RR. Suspicious vessel closed to about 3 miles dead astern, made by flashes signalled spontaneously and then altered to about N.E.

/CYMBELINE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Suspicious Vessel, CYMBELINE-Contd

CYMBELINE altered to original S.W. course and lost sight. Master CYMBELINE stated he cancelled distress call about 4 hours after making it.
This was not the raider which subsequently sank CYMBELINE on 2/9, (Rough description) (C. in C., A.W.I., 1252/17, to Admty.)

Suspicious W/T

W/T operator of MAASDAM bound for Liverpool in H.X. 81, reported that Roumanian ship believed to be ING. N. VLASSOPOL while outward bound in convoy which left Methil middle of September was heard on numerous occasions to test spark transmitter. Operator stated that no W/T conference was held prior to sailing. ING N. VLASSOPOL understood to be due shortly at Sydney Capre Breton, suggest matter be investigated. (F.O. 3. B.S. 1433/17)

RAKUYO MARU

Indicated from W/T interceptions that RAKUYO MARU will call Manzanillo to pick up 200 flasks of Mercury etc., Washington, San Francisco and Los Angeles informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1808/17)

French Ships

Your 1139/16. Following French ships known to be engaged in trade between U.S. and French West Indies: BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC, FORT RICHEPANSE and FORTE DE FRANCE carrying Bananas North and General cargo south. Greek ship CONSTANTINOS H sailed Norfolk 8/10 for Martinique with 3600 tons coal. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1832/17)

French Merchant Ships

Any French Merchant ships met at sea unless trading between islands of French West Indies are to be sent into British ports under armed guard for examination. Any de Gaulle supporters among crews passengers or prisoners are to be removed. Name of ship and summary of cargo are to be signalled to Admiralty and ship is to be detained pending further instructions. Governor of Windward Islands and Leeward Islands informed, (C.in C., A.W.I., 1831/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

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MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

(754) Havana report 754 likely to leave Everglades prepared to scuttle if caught. (C.3). (S.O.I., Kingston, 1510/17).

LUISE BORNHOFEN. Reported to be laid up for the winter at Payal. (D.S. 409).

GERMANIA Tanker, has been refused an application for 60 tons diesel oil at Ponta Delgada (D.S. 409).

KLAUS SCHOKE May attempt to put to sea, possibly under escort of U-boat. Has recently taken 150 tons coal from LUISE BORNHOFEN. (D.S. 409).

RUDOLF ALLBRECHT Strong indications that she is preparing to leave Teneriffe. (Consul, Teneriffe 1610/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HURUNUI (torpedoed 14/10)	British 10,023 tons. POWEY with 73 survivors from HURUNUI has been instructed to rejoin convoy. (SCARBOROUGH, 1050/17).
CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10)	Arrived and beached in Belfast. Salvage operations in progress. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1248/17.) Beached at 1230 150° 5 cables from Kilroot Point (CHESHIRE 1257/17).
?	16 men reported afloat in 57.06 N., 10.50 W. OTTAWA proceed to rescue. (C.in C. W.A. 1319/17) Your 1319. No trace. Are the men in boats? (OTTAWA, 1849/17).
BONHEUR (torpedoed 15/10)	British, 5327 tons. Torpedoed 0420/15, 57.14 N., 8.20 W. Vessel known to have sunk in 12 minutes. Crew landed Belfast today, no casualties or missing. Was in Convoy O.B. 229. Master reports a British tanker No. 81 in convoy was torpedoed at same time and crew rescued by one of escorting vessels. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1537/17).
HIGHLAND BRIGADE (escaped 8/10)	Master of HIGHLAND BRIGADE reports (1) periscope sighted by 2 reliable men, distant 8 cables, at 1800/6 when in position 049° 39' N. 023° 38' W. S.S.S.Signal made (not heard by Freetown). (2) Track of torpedo seen missing close astern at 1600/8 when in position 041° 22'N. 051° 00' W. Track coming from Swirl 8 cables 2 points abaft beam was seen by look out, several officers and men. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1712/17).
SANGRANT (torpedoed 13/10).	Lifeboat sighted by aircraft 0733/17 from SANGRANT, torpedoed 1955/13. (? D.O.R.)
Convoy S.C.7.	Attacked at 0400 in 59.10 N., 18.34 W. (SCARBOROUGH, 0401/17, C.in C. W.A.0659/17).
SCORESBY	British 3843 tons. In S.C.7. Have on board full crew of SCORESBY sunk in 59.10. N., 18.34 W. (BLUEBELL, 0730/17 SCARBOROUGH, 0900/17).
LANGUEDOC.	French tanker, 9512 tons. (In S.C.7 attacked 0400). Holed fore end. An standing by. Crew attempting to get her to port. (BLUEBELL, 0730/17). Your 0930. Escort tanker. (C.in C. W.A. 1127/17, SCARBOROUGH, 0900/17). Abandoned LANGUEDOC in 59.10 N., 17.52 W. Crew taken on board, total of survivors 79. An rejoining convoy. (BLUEBELL, 1119/17).

/ Convoy O.B. 228. .....

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (continued)

Ships Attacked.

Convoy O.B.228. 4 ships torpedoed 60.46 N., 16.30 W. (FOLKESTONE, 0255/17).
DOKKA and USKBRIDGE, 2 others names unknown. Continuing search. (FOLKESTONE, 1300/17).
Convoy attacked in position 59.13 N., 17.30 W. A/S's failed. (BLUEBELL, 1530/17).

DOKKA — Norwegian, 1168 tons. In O.B.228. Sunk. 7 Norwegian survivors on board. (FOLKESTON, 1300/17). List of survivors (FOLKESTONE, 1735/17) 0230/17. 60.46 N., 16.30 W. Details of attack (FOLKESTONE, 1800/17).

USKBRIDGE. — British, 2715 tons. In O.B. 228. Was abandoned and has sunk through internal explosion at 1235. (FOLKESTONE, 1300/17) 0230/17. 60.46 N., 16.30 W. Details of attack (FOLKESTONE, 1800/17)

Submarines Reported.

1310. D.F. 56° - 57° N., 21° - 22° W. (V.A.S. to CLYDE, 1419/17).

1623. D.F. probably U/B, 59.30 N., 19° to 22° W. at 1623. (C.in C. W.A. 1717/17).

1207. 51° to 52° N., 16° to 17° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 409).

0255. A.F. message 60.46 N., 16.30 W. at 0155/17 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0403/17).

0400. Convoy S.C.7 attacked in 59.10 N., 18.34 W. at 0400. Am hunting. (SCARBOROUGH, 0401/17) BLUEBELL and FOWEY to assist (C.in C. W.A. 0659/17).

0255. Convoy O.B. 228 attacked in 60.46 N., 16.30 W. (FOLKESTONE, 0255/17). Suspected submarine escaping on the surface. Request air assistance. (FOLKESTONE, 0615/17) LEITH and HEARTSEASE to return and attack submarine (C.in C. W.A. 0407/17).

0830. U/B reported by aircraft in 59.03 N., 17.03 W. (D.D.I.C. 0952/17). Unless in contact rejoin convoy forthwith. Aircraft reported over submarine in 59.03 N., 17.03 W. at 0830. (C.in C. W.A. 1021/17) (Aircraft 210 Sqdn., 0900/17).

0835. D.F. U/B in approx. position 45° N., 05° W. at 0835, may enter Gironde p.m. today. (V.A.S. 1139/17 to TALISMAN) (D.S. 408).

/ 1030. ...

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported (Continued).

1030. By aircraft of D/10 Sqdn., 47.37 N., 10.54 W., Co. 277, speed 8 knots. (15 Group, 1030/17).

0800. U/B in position 56.32 N., 22.00 W., steering 290° at 0800/17. U/B is aware of my presence. (CLYDE, 1417/17).

0825. N.E. of 58.30 N., - 59.30 N., 12° - 14° W., indefinite (.D.S. 408).

Mediterranean.

? time. 31.20 N., 29.25 E. Sunderland sent to assist trawlers to attack. Submarine not located. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1244/17).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian. 1 about 150' W. of Gironde at 0830/17.

German. 1 in vicinity of 45 N 16 W at 1006/17.
1 in 47° 37' N. 10° 54' W. at 1010/17.
1 in 49° 24' N. 9° 15' W. at 0045/16 and
1 in vicinity 51-52 N. 15° to 17° W. at 1131/17.

These reports may indicate U/B Patrols in Western Approaches.
1 about 150 miles to South Westward of Rockall.
1 to Westward of Rockall East of 20' W.
1 in 59 N. 17 W. at 0830/17.
1 in about 60° 30' N. 17 W at 0405/17.
1 in vicinity of Rosemary Bank probably to North Eastward.
1 in nearer N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1368/17.)

Submarines Attacked.

0405. By 0255 (attack on O.B. 228). 060° 46' N. 016° 30' W. of 0230/17.
Apparently submarine surfaced after attack between columns 5 and 6 on reverse course of convoy, was unaware of presence of any escort. On sighting FOLKESTONE, retired on the surface at high speed and would have continued to do so had she not been put down by gunfire. Anti/submarine set operating, perfectly explosed, good, but contact could not be obtained over 1000 ya (i) all sank. (FOLKESTONE, 1800/17.) (D.S.,

/ 0405. .....

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked (Continued).

0405. Sighted submarine astern of Convoy on surface. Chased for 14 minutes without gaining, put down with gunfire. Gained contact and attacked, now lost contact and am searching. (FOLKESTONE, 0405/17). Suspected submrine escapting on the surface. Request air assistance. (FOLKESTONE, 0615/17) 60.40 N., 17° W. (D.S. 408).

1100. By CHELSEA and ARABIS, 55.32 N., 6.20 W. (A.3) (D.S. 408).

1010. Sunderland attacked U/B unsuccessfully in 47.37 N., 10.54 W., at 1000/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1101/17) (H.Q. Plymouth, 2050/17).

0618. By aircraft 210 Sqdn., 59.10 N., 17.50 W. SCARBOROUGH made contact at 0900. (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle 1705/17). Am investigating aircraft attack on submarine in 59.10 N., 17.44 W. (SCARBOROUGH 0900/17). Dropped 3 patterns on firm contact, remaining in vicinity. (SCARBOROUGH, 1050/17).

TRIDENT attack on U/B. 8/10. My 2311/14 TRIDENT reports first hearing H.E. of U Boat at 0604/8 when TRIDENT was submerged. Attempted to fire torpedoes but was in an unfavourable position. TRIDENT surfaced and chased U Boat. Whilst closing TRIDENT fired a total of eight torpedoes from the quarter. Torpedoes missed one being seen to pass ahead of U Boat. TRIDENT closed to 40 and fired two rounds of S.A.P. The second round hitting. Sparks of shell hitting hull were clearly visible before U Boat dived. It is possible S.A.P. shell pierced hull and exploded internally. No H.E. heard after U Boat disappeared, though echo contact possibly of U Boat on the bottom was obtained and held. TRIDENT remained in vicinity until 0900. On returning to this position on 11/10 intense A/S activity was encountered. No certainty that U Boat was sunk as it is possible that shell pierced conning tower and not hull. If so, conning tower only might be flooded and submarine could return to base. (V.A.S. 1206/17).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signal. — At 1400/18. (D.C.1401/18).

Increased Readiness. — The Chiefs of Staff have decided that as from October 19th the Service Ministries should be instructed that all forces prepared to resist invasion should be held at an increased state of readiness.
2. Home Forces will "stand to" from Noon Saturday 19th October.
3. C's in C. should take such action as they consider appropriate to increase the degree of readiness but leave should not be curtailed.
(V.C.N.S.2351/18).

Policy.

SEAWOLF. — In view of Adty's 1759/17, I consider that SEAWOLF should complete her Patrol in the Fro Havet area.
(C.in C. H.F. 1154/18 to V.A.S.)

Submarine watch on Brest. — The information that destroyers had sailed from Brest on the 17th October was obtained entirely fortuitously from a returning bomber aircraft.
2. Although P.R.U. reports are most valuable they cannot be sufficiently frequent to give early information of the enemy movements and also there are inevitably blank days due to unsuitable weather.
3. As it is not practical to maintain an air patrol off Brest the only means of obtaining early information of enemy movements is from submarine patrol.
4. While realising the shortage of submarines, it is considered that a submarine watch on Brest should be maintained even at the expense of anti-invasion patrols elsewhere.
(C.in C. W.A. 1947/18 to Adty).

Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. H. 2320/18 to V.A.S.)

Importance of Capturing Prisoners. — Information obtained from prisoners taken from enemy Naval or Merchant vessels and prizes may be of vital importance and every possible opportunity of capturing prisoners must be used.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1958/18. A.G.M. 482A).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

CLEVELAND.	Detailed to escort BEN MY CHREE to Aberdeen and then L.23 from Dundee to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1026/18 to R.A.D. and R.A.D. H.F. 1515/18 to A.C.O.S.)
ETTRICK. KARANJA. AUSTRALIA. ECHO. GRIFFIN.	F.O.C.N.A's 1350/17. Movments are postponed. (D.O.D. F. 1048/18 to C.in C. W.A.)
KEPPEL.	Your 1749/17. Yes. Please sail KEPPEL to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1047/18 to C.in C. W.A.)
ISIS.	My 2040/16. For FAME read ISIS. (A.C.N.S. H. 1145/18 to C.in C. H.F.)
Nore Command.	Movements for night to 1200/19. (C.in C. Nore 1200/18 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
FERNIE.	Your 1159. Expected time of arrival Garrison Point 1515. (FERNIE 1224/18 to C.in C. Nore).
AMARAPOORA.	735. AMARAPOORA required 1500 tons of coal and 2,000 tons of water. As it will take 7 days to coal at Scapa and ship also requires small repairs, request arrangements may be made for her to proceed to Clyde. She will be relieved at Scapa by ISLE OF JERSEY. Latter in turn relieving VASNA on return of AMARAPOORA. (A.C.O.S. 1237/18 to Adty).
WANDERER.	Proceed to Liverpool at 1900/18. (C.in C. W.A. 1513/18 to WANDERER). Fighter protection requested. (C.in C. W.A. 2357/18 to H.Q.F.C.)
Portsmouth.	Movements for night 18/19. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/18).
Orkneys.	Movements for night 18/19. (F.O.C.O.S. 1531/18).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines on 18th. (A.C.O.S. 1536/18).
Dover.	Patrols for night 18/19. (V.A. Dover 1553/18 and 1636/18).
Western Channel.	Night report. (C.in C. W.A. 1635/18).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd).

ALERT. C.in C. Portsmouth 1627/9. Request you sail ALERT as convenient to Portsmouth for onward routing to Newhaven. (D.D.O.D. H. 1757/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Force F. 4 Destroyers sighted in 48° 40'N., 6° 20' W and rear destroyer was bombed at 1827/17 No hits observed. (Air Ministry 0120/18 to H.Q.C.C.)

C.in C. W.A. 1521/17 indicated presence of 4 enemy destroyers steering N.N.W. on converging course. At 1602 in 49° 30'N 6° 40'W sighted suspicious vessel on Port bow bearing 200. Course of Force F at time 260 degrees 26 knots. Increased to full speed and altered course towards enemy.

1607. NEWCASTLE opened fire at extreme range, approximately 25,000 yards, and EMERALD opened fire periodically to test range but was never within her maximum gun range. Destroyers formed on a line of bearing 260° from NEWCASTLE, EMERALD being 080° from NEWCASTLE, in open order. Signalled "chase". Enemy made small alterations of course to Port from approximately 197° to finally 110° during the period of the engagement.

1621. Enemy laid first smoke screen by dropping floats and making C.S.A. smoke in turn periodically throughout the action. This formed a heavy white cloud and made spotting fall of salvoes extremely difficult.

1630. 2 German Float-planes appeared to westward. 5th D.F. opened fire and they made off.

1640. EMERALD opened fire on Heinkel.

1650. NEWCASTLE catapulted Walrus aircraft Owing to defective steam valve JUPITER was unable to keep up with the remainder of Force F. who were doing about 32½ knots and by 1700 she was 3 miles astern.

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force F. (Contd.)

1720. Sailing vessel sighted bearing 213°. NEWCASTLE instructed D 5 to detach JUPITER to investigate. D.5 ordered her to do this and take off any French or Germans on board to be interrogated. JUPITER found it was a tunny fishing ship and brought the French Captain back in spite of his violent protests.

1738. German destroyers observed to turn to Port together and fired torpedoes At this time nearest German destroyer was 19,200 yards from JACKAL, and just over 20,000 yards from NEWCASTLE Force F turned to a course of approximately 196° to comb the tracks. 3 tracks were seen to pass between EMERALD and NEWCASTLE, EMERALD actually seeing one turn a circle and disappear. Another 8 tracks were seen passing clear to Port of EMERALD by Walrus aircraft.

1750. Resumed course of 150°. NEWCASTLE again opened fire.

1801 Attacked by medium level bombers. Dornier dropped stick of bombs just aster of NEWCASTLE after being engaged by all vessels.

Enemy destroyers were now disappearing and visibility and light deteriorating . The last destroyer lost out of sight and ceased firing 1810.

1812. Course 110° Further bombing attack Bombs fell between destroyers and NEWCASTLE, (perhaps Dornier 17).

1816. 3 Blenheims arrived and identified themselves to JACKAL who replied with 5 R's. The Blenheims then made off in the direction of the enemy.

During these bombing attacks EMERALD was attacked on five occasions but bombs never fell closer than 300 yards.

1817. Walrus was ordered to return to base as firing had ceased and enemy was out of sight.

1818. 2 Blenheims carried out low gliding

/attacks.

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force P. (Contd). attacks on KASHMIR nad KELVIN from their Starboard beam but luckily missed. When the destroyers saw that they could not avoid the attacks they opened fire.

1823. Altered course to 310° broke off the engagement. No enemy in sight. Ushant light then bore 091° 36 miles.

1839. NEWCASTLE's Walrus aircraft landed in the sea and was hoisted in to NEWCASTLE, the pilot Lieut. Gough making a good landing in spite of being wounded in an engagement with a Dornier 17. After engaging the Walrus the Dornier retired being apparently chased away by one of our Blenheim bombers. Course was then set on a retiring course to the North Westward at 25 knots returning to Plymouth at 0800/18.
(C.in C. W.A. 1633/18 to Adty).

Convoy F.N.11
GASFIRE.
HAUXLEY.
P.L.M.14.

GASFIRE in tow at 52° 57'N., 2° 2'E. at 15 knots. PINTAIL in company. (WIVERN 0610/18 to C.in C. Nore).

HAUXLEY sank suddenly at 0645 about 50° 3' 30"N., 1° 35'30" E. while in tow. (WORCESTER 0655/18 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

My position Sheringham Light Buoy. Tow has parted. P.L.M.14 is making water steadily. (Capt. D.16 0955/18 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

My 0313. Yarmouth Tugs have not sailed owing to fog. (C.in C. Nore 0959/18 to D.16).

S.S. HAUXLEY sank while in tow of WORCESTER at 0645 53°03' 30" N., 01° 35' 30"E. MALCOLM and WIVERN towing S.S. P.L.M.14 and GASFIRE to Humber were at Sheringham Light Buoy at 0830 speed 4 knots WORCESTER in company. PUFFIN expects to arrive Humber 1145 with crews of HAUXLEY and P.L.M.14. Tugs have left Humber to take over tow but tugs ordered out from Yarmouth have not sailed owing to fog.
(C.in C. Nore 1046/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Operations.

Convoy F.N.11.
GASPIRE.
HAUXLEY.
PLM.14. (Contd.)

My position 52° 56'N., 1° 56'E. speed 3 knots. Tugs urgently required. Tow has parted twice. Visibility minimum. (WIVERN 1200/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Arrived in Humber at 1200, PUFFIN with survivors of HAUXLEY and HLM.14. (F.O. Humber 1340/18 to Adty).

My 1454. Draught of PLM.14 now 38 feet. Am escorting to Humber by swept channels. My position 53° 12'N., 1° 8' E. steering 355° at 5 knots. (Capt.D.16 1645/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Force D. (Tromso).

Operation D.H. Phase 2 abandoned owing to low visibility. H.M.S. HOOD with screen and Force D. return to Scapa. H.M.S. DOUGLAS and H.M.S. ISIS proceed to Skaale Fiord Faroes and escort Oiler MONTENOL to Scapa. H.M.S. DUNCAN is to join Force D. H.M.S. HOOD'S position will be 063° North 004° West at 1400 course 180° speed of advance 15 knots. (F.O.C.1st B.C.S. 1122/18 to Force D).

Iceland.

Adty's 1900/13. Estimated minimum time for turn-round of personnel ships in fine weather 8 days. Bad weather would delay return 2 or 3 days. (F.O.I.C. Reykjavik 1240/18 to Adty).

Your 1900/13. Confined LETITIA will call at Reykjavik 31/10. (F.O.C.N.P. 1622/18 to Adty).

Patrol off Smiths Knoll.

70 ft. M.T.B's. are to establish anti-E Boat patrol on silent engines tonight Friday between Smith's Knoll light float and 56 buoy returning Harwich at daylight keeping clear of F.S.convoy due position Z 0630/19. (C.in C. Nore 1246/18 to BEEHIVE.)

Sweep between Flushing and Ijmuiden.

BEEHIVE reports following track taken by 1st M.T.B. Flotilla. M.T.B.14 fouled wreckage off Brenwers Haven Gat and sustained damage. Sweep was abandoned and no surface vessels seen. (C.in C. Nore 1417/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Western Channel Patrol. — Operations.

A/S Trawlers to patrol AX.
(C.in C. W.A. 1537/18 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

VENETIA. — In view of 280 QZX, patrol between 10 and A Buoy.
(Capt. D.21 1620/18 to VENETIA).

Operations Active and Pungent. — Your 1544/17. Approved for ships to be reduced to C and M, and for BRONDARIS, AMAZONE, and RAIN now at Chatham to be towed to London Docks.
(D.O.D. H. 1726/18 to C.in C. Nore).

3 Enemy Trawlers attacked off Dover. — Special Intelligence material at about 14[illegible]/18 indicated enemy surface craft active between bearings of 150° and 160° . At 1452 this was confirmed by Dover C.H.L. distance about 12 miles. I therefore immediately despatched M.T.B. 69 and Norwegian M.T.B. 5 to investigate, the weather being overcast with visibility 3 to 4 miles. 3 large enemy trawlers about 600 tons apparently minesweeping on an easterly course were sighted in position 150° Dover 14 miles at range of 4 miles. M.T.B's closed at high speed, M.T.B. 69 firing two torpedoes at a range of 3000 yards. 2 large columns of water observed amidships on rear ship. M.T.B. 69 retired under smoke as 4 escorting E or R boats moved out to the attack. M.T.B. 5 did not fire as enemy boats were attacking and her torpedoes were set to 1500 yards high speed setting. On retiring M.T.B. 5 was fired at presumably by E or R boats but not hit. This encounter was largely due to the accurate initial bearing obtained by South Foreland (V.A.Dover 1841/18 to Adty).

Operation LUCID. — Prepare to carry out on night 1/2 November (A.C.N.S. H. 1955/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Dover Shelled. — Approximately twelve shells fell in Dover area between 1122 and 1309 today. One shell fell near Admiralty Pier 6" Battery, and remainder fell as follows:-
One in Granville Dock one inside Harbour, two in town, three in the sea and four behind Leathercoates Signal Station.
CLYTHNESS damaged by splinters.
Casualties:- Naval, one wounded: Military. One killed and three wounded: Civilian, One killed. (V.A.Dover 2006/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TALISMAN. At your discretion proceed along line 250° from Gironde where U-Boat might be met. (Capt. S.2. 1134/18 to TALISMAN).

H. 28. Leave Z at 1430/18 and return to Harwich. Route. (S.O. Submarines Harwich 1221/18 to H.28).

O. 24. Passes Bell Rock 1900/18. Route thence. (Capt. S.9. 1531/18 to O. 22).

CACHALOT, TARN } Estimated off Bishop Rock at 0800/20. Movements after. (Capt. S.2. 1707/18).

PORPOISE Shift Patrol by sunrise 20/10 to following area. (Capt. S.2. 1726/18).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/19. (V.A.S. 1756/18, 1901/19, 2116/18).

H. 28 Report. H 28 reports she carried out at 1640/19 an unsuccessful attack with two torpedoes on a vessel thought to bea 1000 ton store ship which subsequently dropped distant depth charges. H.49's time table of A/S Trawler sweeps given in my 0957/7 was not followed regularly but Sturgeons Channel was frequently swept.
(S.O. Submarines Harwich 2015/18 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols cancelled. S.A.I.E., S.A.2 N., and Offensive Patrol Horns Reef to Lister cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0920/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Trondheim. My 2003/17. R/C Trondheim not yet possible. (C.in C. Rosyth 0932/18 to Adty.)
R/C 061° to Trondheim will take off shortly. (C.in C. Rosyth 1214/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Norwegian Coast. A R/C 061° N. to Lister is now operating. (C.in C. Rosyth 1314/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Aircraft reported shot down in Lapland. Your 1826/17. No British aircraft reported as shot ?down in Finnish Lapland but (?Officer Commanding Troops) Ivalo tells me he personally heard sounds of heavy gunfire and possibly bombing not far from Kirkenes at about 2200 October 16th. He is making enquiries and will advise me later today of any further news.
(Petsamo 1341/17 to Adty.)

S.A.3. } S.A.3 and 2 southern tracks of S.A.2 not
S.A.2 } being flown tonight.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1446/18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

16.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Belgian Trawler 9.36. — Reports being bombed and machine-gunned 23 miles South of Kinsale at 1800/17. No casualties. Trawling gear lost. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1214/18 to Adty.).

COLLINGWOOD (Portsmouth) — COLLINGWOOD reports bombing attack by one machine at 1410/18. Four bombs dropped. Estimated two unexploded. Casualties twelve Naval and six Wrens - none fatal. Gas electric and water mains out of action. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1605/18 to Adty.)

Mining.

Sheerness M/S Area. — Admiralty 1901/8. The great majority of the new mines appear to have been dropped in the Thames estuary in the Sheerness mine sweeping area. Arrangements should therefore be made with Commodore i/c Sheerness for the special vessels operating from Harwich to sweep in this area when they are ready to do so. A mine was observed to be dropped in position 195° East BARROW Lt. vessel. 1 mile on 9th and is believed to be still there, magnetic sweeping having failed to detonate it. Mines are now being dropped nightly in vicinity of Medway and Thames Booms. (C.in C. Nore 1047/18 to F.O. Harwich).

Inchkeith. — Port is now open. (XDO Inchkeith 1412/18 to C.in C. H.P.)

KINGSTON CAIRNGORM. — Mined and sank 17/10. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1540/18 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Experimental Sweeping ahead of Convoys. — My 1823/7/10. This will be repeated by 4 ships of 5th M/S Flotilla ahead of O.A.232 sailing on 20/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1725/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

Rosyth. — Patrol boat reported a splash near main ship Channel at 0515/18 in a thick fog. She also reported having twice heard engines of aircraft flying veryhigh some time before the splash. Report of sound of aircraft corroborated from one other source and it was decided that KING GEORGE V could not enter until the main ship Channel had been thoroughly swept and counter mining carried out. As the magnetic sweeping could not be completed in time the movement of H.M.S. KING GEORGE V. from anchorage to lock has been postponed until P.M. 19th. (C.in C. Rosyth 1809/18 to Admty.)

/ Fleet sweepers .....

MOST SECRET.

16.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Belgian Trawler O.86. — Reports being bombed and machine-gunned 23 miles South of Kinsale at 1800/17. No casualties. Trawling gear lost. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1214/18 to Adty.).

COLLINGWOOD (Portsmouth) — COLLINGWOOD reports bombing attack by one machine at 1410/18. Four bombs dropped. Estimated two unexploded. Casualties twelve Naval and six Wrens - none fatal. Gas electric and water mains out of action. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1606/18 to Adty.)

Mining.

Sheerness M/S Area. — Admiralty 1901/8. The great majority of the new mines appear to have been dropped in the Thames estuary in the Sheerness mine sweeping area. Arrangements should therefore be made with Commodore i/c Sheerness for the special vessels operating from Harwich to sweep in this area when they are ready to do so. A mine was observed to be dropped in position 195° East BARROW Lt. vessel. 1 mile on 9th and is believed to be still there, magnetic sweeping having failed to detonate it. Mines are now being dropped nightly in vicinity of Medway and Thames Booms. (C.in C. Nore 1047/18 to F.O. Harwich).

Inchkeith. — Port is now open. (XDO Inchkeith 1412/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

KINGSTON CAIRNCORN. — Mined and sank 17/10. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1540/18 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Experimental Sweeping ahead of Convoys. — My 1823/7/10. This will be repeated by 4 ships of 5th M/S Flotilla ahead of O.A.232 sailing on 20/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1725/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

Rosyth. — Patrol boat reported a splash near main ship Channel at 0515/18 in a thick fog. She also reported having twice heard engines of aircraft flying veryhigh some time before the splash. Report of sound of aircraft corroborated from one other source and it was decided that KING GEORGE V could not enter until the main ship Channel had been thoroughly swept and counter mining carried out. As the magnetic sweeping could not be completed in time the movement of H.M.S. KING GEORGE V. from anchorage to lock has been postponed until P.M. 19th. (C.in C. Rosyth 1809/18 to Admty.)

/ Fleet sweepers .....

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Fleet sweepers swept F/S convoy through 148 Q23. from Z to N E Swin, one mine cut and destroyed clear of Channel in 52° 1.2' N 1° 48' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1927/18 to Adty.)

Falmouth. Mine exploded in Sweep in 49° 59' 30" N. 5° 5' W. Channel not yet complete.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1933/18 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Lister. One M/V 5000 tons in 58° 40' N. 5° 20' E. steering South at 6 knots. (Aircraft of 269 Sqdn. 1515/18).

Trondheim. 2 M/V's and 1 submarine. (Aircraft of 248 Sqdn. 1358/18). R/C of Coastwise Vessels 1455 to 1540/18 (Donibristle 1920/18)

Indications of Enemy Craft on line Eddystone to Brest, possibly in Brest. D.F. report. (C.in C. W.A. 2031/18 to KIPLING, BIYSKAWICA).

Faroes. Unidentified Ship about 2000 tons passed Skopen Fiord eastbound at 2000. Speed 8 to 10 knots. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2300/18 to Adty.)

Miscellaneous.

Rosyth Port is closed owing to Fog.
(XDO Rosyth 0758/18 to C.in C. Rosyth).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

MAURETANIA — Your 0707/12. Presume she can still be used in U.S. S. (D.S.T. 0308/18 to A.C.N.B.) My 0707Z/12. Defects are as follows. Owners representative satisfied that steaming on 4 boilers satisfactory for Trooping requirements, leaving pre-heater repairs for a convenient opportunity. (A.C.N.B. 0906/18 to D. of S.T.)

SALAMIA — My 1055B/15. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Cape Town 0905B/18 to Adty.

FAME
ASHANTI — C. in C., Home Fleet's 1043/18. During night 17/18th heavy swell set in seriously damaging both ships, necessitating removal of crews by Breeches Buoy, as swell was running right over upper deck. Have personally inteviewed Salvage Officer who reports further efforts to float ASHANTI and FAME cannot be made before next spring tide, about November 1st. Efforts will be made to remove guns and other weights, but situation of ships makes this work difficult All valuable stores and ammunition being removed today. Ship's Company accommodated in Army Huts on Shore. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1218/18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.A. 229	Aircarft forthwith to 270° until 25° where convoy is to disperse. (to avoid U-Boat reported in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., at 0829) (C. in C., W.A. 1010/18) JASON, COREOPSIS, HIBISCUS to leave O.A. 229 in time to meet H.X. 79 in accordance with my 1050/18 (C. in C., 1210/18)
H.X. 79	Route (C. in C., W.A., 0100/18 to MONTCLARE etc.) Orders to aircraft to avoid U-Boat (C. in C., W.A. 1050/18)
W.N. 24	See GLEN BEGG below.
F.N. 12	Corvette escort WIDGEON and PINTAIL (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1645/18) Postponed owing to fog. F.N. 12 fast sails 0800/19, Code words "Agent one" then "Lunch one" (C. in C., Rosyth 1729/18)
F.N. 14	Slow sails 0900/19, Code words 'Agent two" the 'Lunch two" (C. in C., Rosyth 1729/18)
F.S. 12	HARRIER, GOSSAMER to carry out oropesa sweep ahead (C. in C., Nore, 1705/18)
O.A. 231	HASTINGS and FLEUR DE LYS escorting (N.C.S.O. Methil 1141/18) List 1142/18)
H.X. 81	Sailing telegram. Escort VOLTAIRE, etc., (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1131/17)
H.X. 80	List and destinations (D.T.D. 1309/18)
SVEADROTT CASTOR	Informing submarines on patrol of their route. (V.A(S) 0603/18, 2039/18) N.O.I.C. Faroes 1203/17 (fishing smack mined) Presume consideration is being given to routeing the ship through safe waters (C. in C., H.F., 1105/18 t to Admty.) Now leaving Kristiansand 19/10. Speed, route etc. (D.O.D. (H) 1319/18) Your 1105/18. The disadvantages of routeing these ships by any other way is considered to outweigh the possibility of them being damaged in their passage through the Skopen Fiord. (D.O.D.(H) 1837/18 to C. in C., H.F.) Position 1800/18 G.M.T. (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 1930/18, 1934/18)
GLEN BEGG	Intend sailing escorted by LA MALOUINE to-day. LA MALOUINE on arrival off Bar Light to proceed to overtake W.N. 24 sailing from Clyde 1000/19 (F.O. Greenock 1227/18)

/PRETORIA CASTLE...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping- Contd.

PRETORIA CASTLE GLEANER	Position and time of R.V. with local escort (C. in C., WA. 2120/18, 2155/18)
Suspect Ship	Passed east to west 1100/18 ship about 3000 ? tons SWITZERLAND PLATE CALANDA on bow. If she is suspect please advise N.I. and S.O.I. Gibraltar repectively B.V.C. (Horta, 1530/18)

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

STRASBOURG etc. Appreciation of local situation. Re intercepting STRASBOURG and patrol off Casablanca. Possibility of retaliation on Gibraltar if force used. To our advantage if French prepared to accept status quo in territory now under Free French control. (S.O. Force H 1441/18.) Your 2202/17 and D.N.I. 1939/17. French N.A. says he knows nothing of any movement but STRASBOURG repaired and all warships at Toulon frequently go out for exercises. (N.A. Madrid, 1219/18 to V.A. Gib.)

French movements. Gibraltar 18/10 1530 COMMANDANT DELAGE escorting CONGO passing from West to East. 1700 COMMANDANT DELAGE returned westbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1753/18.)

Reinforcements for Libreville. Following received from N.C.S.O. Duala. Reported Libreville is expecting reinforcements from Dakar. (C.S.1 1031/18 to DELHI).

North Atlantic.

RENOWN Temporary repairs to bulge completed and fuel embarked to full stowage (S.O. Force H 0853/18). Asking what further time required to complete repairs intended in his 0901/14 (V.C.N.S. 1554/18) N.A. Madrid's 1210/18. My 1926/17 (RENOWN to come to short notice for steam) is to remain in force for the present (A.C.N.S. (F) 1707/18).

Evacuation of troops AUSTRALIA etc. Your 2333/16 Para. 2. Military personnel were embarked in ETTRICK Naval personnel in AUSTRALIA. About 460 Poles and mixed personnel remaining (?now being) embarked in REINA DEL PACIFICO.
In view of your 1856/17 and your 1921/17 should REINA DEL PACIFICO be sailed tonight. (F.O.C. N.A. 0030/18).
My 1254/17. AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN, ETTRICK, KARANJA have returned to Gibraltar on orders. (F.O.C. N.A. 1204/18.)
My 0920/18. 0030/18 presumably intended. Propose transferring Naval and Military personnel from AUSTRALIA and ETTRICK to REINA DEL PACIFICO. (F.O.C. N.A. 1638/18). N.A. Madrid's 1210/18. Cancel my 1921/17. AUSTRALIA with transports and destroyers are to be sailed as soon as practicable. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1706/18).

Cancel my 1638/18. (F.O.C. N.A. 1845/18.)

/ Your 1221/17. ...

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Your 1221/17. AUSTRALIA, ESCAPADE, ECHO escorting ETTRICK, KARANJA, sail 2200/18. Estimated speed of advance 12 knots. T. A. position (c) 1200/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 2046A/18.)

South Atlantic. (Continued)

SALANDA — (Overdue) My 1055 B/18, arrived Durban (S.O.(I) Capetown 0905 B/18). At 1530 Minus One unsuccessfully engaged small twin engine monoplane flying boat in 000° 38' N. 008° 34' E. Enemy initial course 180° final escape on North Easterly course. Request information whether Free French possess Flying Boat and description thereof. (DELHI 2229/18 to F.O.C. 1st C.S.).

Freetown air defences. — Your 1837/9. No increase can be made at present. Question will be reconsidered next month. (V.C.N.S. 2246/18 to C.in C. S.A.)

M.V.'s and Hospital Ship. — Your 2114/16 Dept of Defence, South Africa, assure me full and continuous employment exists for SELANDIA. They further desire to retain LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE for present, but are prepared to reconsider retention of latter vessel from month to month. They are pressing for reply for Admiralty regarding Hospital ship as C.O.C. Nairobi is asking for assurance that one will be available first December. M.O.I.C. Simonstown 2219/18, to D.of S.T.

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements. M.T. ships. — Re Adty. 2240/9, 1911/10, 2344/10, C.in C. Med. 1421/14, F.O. Force H 1032/10. Adty's proposals (Adty. 0205/18, 1050/18) My 0205/18 and S.O. Force H 0014/17. Date of sailing from U.K. cannot be advanced. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1327/18 to C.in C. Med.).

SPHINX. — French hospital ship, due to leave Marseilles for Beirut 21/10 arrive 27/10 C.in C. Mediterranean 0127/18).

Benghazi. — Aircraft R.C. p.m./16. 3 M.V's about 5000 tons in harbour, 2 of about 10,000 tons lying 2 miles outside, 5 of about 8000 tons entering harbour (Capt. (S) 1421/18 to OSIRIS).

/ Reinforcement. .....

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued)

Reinforcement. M.T. ships. — S.O. Force H 0914/17. Concur that sailing from U.K. should be expedited. Conditions desirable. (C.in C. Med. 1447/18).

VALF — R-A. H.D. Pridham-Wippell C.B., C.V.O., to be VALF and 2nd i/C. Mediterranean Fleet with acting rank of V-A. in succession to V-A. J.C. Tovey C.B., D.S.O. (Hd. of M. 2000/18).

Appointment. — Admty. 2041/10. Concur appt. of Capt. Chambers as S.O. H.A.S.E. (C.in C. Med. 2023/18).

Ionian Sea. R.C. — Weather promoted aircraft R.C. of Ionian Sea being complete 18/10 (Gov. Malta 2012/18).

A/A guns destroyers. — Admty. 1943/11. Mediterranean condition does not at present justify removal of after torpedo tubes in destroyers later than A class or number three mounting in TRIBAL to mount A/A armament. Fitting of 3" or 12 pdrs. in lieu of after tubes and 0.5" in lieu of pom-poms in Australian V class is proceeding.
(C.in C. Med., 1535/18 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence. — Tel. No. 1169/18/10. Following (A.2) information received from reliable source:
(a) In addition to those destroyers sunk night of October 11th the CAMICIA NERA was badly damaged.
(b) The turrets of LITTORIO and VITTURIO VENETO are giving considerable trouble.
(c) No confirmation that Graziani is being relieved of his command.
(d) Feeling in royalist circles in Italy running high against Germany suggests good opportunity for dropping leaflets.
(N.A. Washington 1139/18).

French ship bombed. — At 0942 G.M.T./18 Beyrout reported to Admiral Duquesne that ANDRE LEBON was being bombed by unknown aircraft south at Crete. He replied aircraft was not British.
(Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 1647/18.)

Turkey. — No assistance to. Situation. (N.A. Anzora, from Adm. Kelly, 1300/18 and 1700/18) (See Mediterranean Volume).

/ Operations by REGENT. .....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued)

Operations by RIGHT. RIGHT unsuccessfully attacked Italian battle fleet south of Taranto on 30/9. In South Adriatic few convoys sighted and Italy - Albania route not discovered. 8/10 - in collision with caique, damaging foremost hydroplanes. 9/10 - sank 5 - 5 thousand ton partially laden ship in convoy 20 miles out from Durazzo. Escort of 20 knot ship painted like merchantman and 2 M A S severely hunted causing damage to Y and Z tanks. 11/10 - unsuccessful attack on small tanker N.E. of Brindisi. 13/10 - starboard foremost hydroplane dropped off on surfacing. Considerable A/S activity in Otranto Straits 9 to 13 October. Anticipate requires at least 4 weeks to make good defects. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1853/18.)

East Indies.

Assessing U-boat losses. My 1136/16 add "para. 4 concur" (C.in C.E.I. 10752Z/18).

U.S.S. Re - empties. To R.V. with U.S.5A. Escort to Gulf of Aden SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, KIMBERLEY, FLAMINGO (S.N.O. Red Sea 1524/18).

China.

Trade with Indo-China. S.N.L.O. Saigon's 0210/22/9 and 0350/24/9 and my 1153/24/9. I have been in communication with Governor General of French Indo China concerning resumption of British Allied Trade which is of importance to Hong Kong. Under the orders from Vichy and fear of dismissal and loss of pension he is unable to agree to resumption. It is hoped however that it will be possible to restart some trade between Hong Kong and Indo China by transhipment at Kwang Chav Wan. In the meantime I am informed French are starting services at Saigon Haiphong Manila Shanghai using Messagerie ships which were laid up at Saigon. This will produce inevitable risk of them capturing a part of British China Coast trade.
(C.in C. China 06252/18).

Your 0011/1 appears to cancel A.M. 2313/28/9 concurring in A.C.N.S's 1300/25/9 proposing that allied ships might resume calls at New Caledonia and French ports in New Zealand Station.

2. Observing that these French possessions havejoined Free French cause request information whether you consider trade should remain suspended. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2242/18).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

LAURENT HELUS — Following from Los Angeles. Belgian tanker LAURENT HELUS with 8500 tons diesel oil obtaining clearance and leaving Los Angeles 19/10 for Singapore. Cargo said to be consigned Yokohama for Mitsui possibly on order. Captain passed us message that cargo intended for enemy and that he will receive instruction when at sea. Stated he will be very obliged if we pick him up. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0226/18.)

Purport of my 0226/18 has been passed to C.in C. A.W.I. in my 0927/18. Singapore informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0933/18)

JACQUES COEUR MARCELLA — Governor Newfoundland's tel. of 17/10 reports probable sailing of trawlers JACQUES COEUR and MARCELLA 17/10. Can you intercept. I am unwilling to delay Town destroyers by specially detailing them for this duty but any on passage to St.Johns could bring (?"them" omitted) in if they met them. Telegram referred to was repeated to High Commissioner Ottawa. (C.in C. A.W.I. 0817/18. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

VAN KINSBERGEN to intercept HELGOLAND. — Cancel my 1052/12 S.O.(I) Kingston's 1130/18. Proceed with all convenient despatch to establish patrol in approaches to Puerto COLOMBIA to capture HELGOLAND. Endeavour to avoid being sighted. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1141/18 to VAN KINSBERGEN)

Whaling Fleet. — Norwegian representative wishes them to sail in company for safety. Reported in German controlled Norwegian Press whaling fleet leaving Monte Video early in November. (Willemstadd 1512/18).

U.S.A. destroyers. — BURNHAM, BUXTON, BRADFORD, BURWELL, and CHESTERFIELD arrived here approx. 1300 G.M.T. today. Defective oil fuel service pump in BRADFORD has been taken in hand locally. My 1130/18 BROADWATER got bight of Manilla round port propeller shaft. Very bad weather has substantially ?hampered refuelling but hope to sail entire sixth division with BROADWATER and possibly CAMERON as soon as possible after noon tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.1717/18.)

M.V. Guns. — List of Merchant Ships issued with Thompson gun equipment. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1134/18 to Admty.)

/ Report received .....

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

Report received from Governor Leeward Islands that EMILE BERTIN and JEANNE D'ARC were at sea 15 miles to the westward of MARTINIQUE at 1550/18.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2203/18.)

Australia.

U.S.7. Number of troops. Re ships. (A.C.N.B. 0829 Z/18).

MAURETANIA Re defects. (A.C.N.B. 0906 Z/18).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELGOLAND. Barranquilla reports she has steam up and S.N.O. Curacoa pass to VAN KINSBERGEN (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1130/18).

ANTARKTIS. Report B 2 that German controlled ANTARKTIS is taking 2 tons provisions. As ship does not appear to be ready for sea suggest provisions may be loaded in turn awaiting fishing smacks for supply to enemy submarines outside Vigo bay. (Actg. Consul Vigo. 1914/18).

CERICO. My 1847/14. CERICO is reported in having difficulty in obtaining crew. Bunker stock of coal at present probably low (S.O.(I) Callao 1407/18).

MOST SECRET

18.10.1940
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy S.C.7
Two Attacks

S.C. 7. attacked at 0145 in 058° 41' N., 014° 03' W., one ship hit. Port side of convoy swept by FOWEY, BLUEBELL without result. LEITH in company. (FOWEY 0247/18 C. in C., W.A. 0503/18)

One ship of S.C. 7. torpedoed in position 058° 45' N., 014° 07' W., at 0145. No further information is at present available. Have detached HEARTSEASE to look for her 1137 1602 5251. (LEITH 0520/18)

Contact not regained, am rejoining convoy. 59 40. 17 20. (SCARBOROUGH 1447/18)

Ship torpedoed reported Submarine on surface course 200 at 2154 in position 058° 29' N., 011° 10' W., (C. in C., W.A., 2257/18 to SCARBOROUGH, LEITH, FOWEY, BLUEBELL.)

Convoy again attacked at 2220. At least four ships torpedoed. Two or more U-Boats suspected. Chased U-Boat on surface for 15 minutes and put her down. (LEITH 2326/18)

Have not been in contact for an hour. Have detailed BLUEBELL to pick up survivors and stand by ship. Am rejoining Convoy with all despatch. (LEITH 2358/18)

Asking what escorts are with convoy. (C. in C., W.A., to SCARBOROUGH, 0109/19)

CARSBRECK
(Convoy S.C.7)

(3670 tons) Torpedoed 58° 48' N., 14° 9' W., (? 0145/18- D.O.R) ? 2230/17. Expected to make Glasgow under her own steam if weather fine. Escort by HEARTSEASE. (HEARTSEASE 0855/18) 58° 44' W., 14° 10' W., 0108/18 (FOWEY 1155/18)

SHEKATIKA
(Convoy S.C.7)

(British 5458 tons) torpedoed 57° 29' N., 11° 10' W., 2128/18 (Lands End T.O.R. 2230/18) Torpedoed in 57° 14' N., 11° W., capable of salvage crew abandoned (FOWEY 2310/18)

CONVALLARIA
(Convoy S.C.7)

(Swedish 1996 tons) Torpedoed 2020/18 (D.O.R)

ASSYRIAN
(Convoy S.C.7)

(2962 tons) Torpedoed in 57° 10' N., 10°38' W 2330 (Lands End Radio 2330/18, Valentia Radio 2230/18)

EMPIRE BRIGADE
(Convoy S.C.7)

(5154 tons) Torpedoed about 2330 (D.O.R)

BLAIRSPEY
See 19/10.

/BLAWERS.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

BENLAWERS (Sunk 6/10)

BENLAWERS owners W. Thompson, Leith, sunk 1108/5 in position 053° 50' N., 026° 00' W., by torpedo from submarine. Submarine not sighted. Ship sank immediately. Books and documents sank with ship. Second Officer and 15 others picked up by BENGORE HEAD remainder of crew last seen sailing East in 2 lifeboats (N.C.S.O. Boston, 1624/18)

SS OSCILLA
False Alarm

Gunned in 30° 18' N., 9° 24' W., near Cape Espichel (SS OSCILLA via Gibraltar WIT TOR 0345/18) Probable gunfire reported was d.c. dropped by KINGSTON TURQUOISE who was near. (F.O.C.N.A. 1219/18)

BRITISH GLORY (Torpedoed 15/10)

Arrived in tow of ENGLISHMAN, SCHELDE and MARAUDER (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1003/18)

SANDSEND

(3612 tons) Torpedoed 0930 in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W. Straggler from O.B. 228. HIBISCUS to assist (C. in C., W.A., 1003/18 to JASON, Valentia Radio 0830/18)

DAVANGER (Torpedoed 11/10)

Norwegian tanker, 7102 tons. Convoy H.X. 77 Torpedoed 300' W of Broadhave 11/10. Chief Officer and 11 men landed Broadhaven. Master and 16 missing. (D.O.R.)

Lifeboat with 25 men rescued 55° 50' N., 7° 40' W., (C. in C., W.A. 1601/18, 1713/18 to ANTELOPE)

THISTLEGARTH (Torpedoed 15/10)

(4747 tons) Have picked up in 58° 45' N., 130° 27' W 9 survivors no casualties from THISTLEGARTH bound from Scapa to St. Lawrence torpedoed at 1655/15 in 58° 43' N., 15° 00' W On look out for another lifeboat with remainder of crew numbering 30 reported sailing towards land. (HEARTSEASE 1009/18)

ORA?
(Sunk 12/10)

Your 1829/17 Ship was sunk on 12th October as the result of U-Boat attack in approx. position 035° 34' N., 010° 35' W., My 1600/12 and 2202/12 and reference 1640/12 S.O. Force "H" refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1525/18 to Admty.)

/Submarines Reported

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War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0829 }
0930 } 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1010/18)

0225 58° N., 14° W., unreliable fix. (A.C.W.A. 0301/18, D.D.I.C. 0337/18)

1216 By D.F. between 46° N., and 47°N, long 3° W. (V.A.S. 1307/18)

1015 By D.F. 59° N., 19° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1132/18)

2026 By D.F. 80 to 110 miles N.W. Malin Head. Unreliable fix. (C. in C., W.A., 2139/18, 2220/18)

S.C.7. Probably been reported by enemy submarine not same one as referred to in my 2139/18. (C. in C., W.A., 2209/18)

0930 Master of British ship ERATO lying at Lisbon harbour reports that he was hailed by fishermen returning from sea at 0930/18 and informed that there was a submarine off Bar. (Lisbon 1245/19)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 off Cape Roca, Portugal at 0245/18
German : 1 still in vicinity of 45° N., 16° W
1 in about 49° to 50° N., far out probably proceeding north westwards.
1 may still be in area 51° to 52° N., 15° to 17°W.,
1 still about 180' S.W. of Rockall
1 was in 56° 32' N. 22° W., at 0800/17
1 was in 58° 41' N., 14° 03' W., at 0145/18
1 was in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., at 0830/18
1 in about 59° N., 19° W., at 1121/18
1 in about 58° N., 14° W at 0225/18
Possibly one nearing Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1245/18)

By ANTELOPE 55° 50' N., 7° 50' W., Considered wreck. Am rejoining Convoy (ANTELOPE 1830/18)

By LEITH Escorting Convoy S.C. 7., about 2300/18 chased a U-Boat on surface and forced her to dive. LEITH and POWEY searched vicinity (D.O.R.)

DURBO Sunk Italian S/M DURBO after having been located by flying boat of 202 Sqdn and attacked by FIREDRAKE in 035° 57' N., 004° 00' W., surfaced and abandoned ship at 1950/18. U/B sank later. FIREDRAKE now returning to harbour with 48 survivors Captain 4 Officers and 43 men. (F.O.C.N.A. 2200/18)
My 2200/18. WRESTLER also took part in attack (F.O.C.N.A. 1108/19)

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/19. (D.C. 0207/19). At 1400/19 (D.C. 1431/19).

More Command Notice for Steam. No air R/C possible. Keep steam at half an hour's notice till 0900/20. (C.in C. Nore 0611/20 to C.S.18, etc.)

Rosyth Dockyard A/A Defences. Adty. 1534/18. Understand local arrangements have been made and C.in C. satisfied. (Air Ministry 0925/19 to Adty.)
Propose to move one Flight of 232 Squadron from Skitton to Turnhouse to augment defence of Rosyth. Request your views. (Air Ministry 1905/19 to Adty.)

Policy.

Northern Patrol. My 1845/4/9. As passage through Skopen and Hesto Fiords can only be made in daylight and clear weather owing to danger from mines, and as the strong tides and the prevalent bad weather cause further delay, intend that N.P. Trawlers will normally proceed to and from patrol areas after 1st November passing south of North Rona one trawler every 10 days proceeding via Thorshavn for conveyance of mails and passengers.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1113/19 to Adty.)

Patrol Vessels shooting at sight. C.in C. Portsmouth's 1303/13 and 1533/18 and C.in C. W.A. 2115/14.
Admiralty concurs with policy set forth in C.in C. Portsmouth 1303/13 so far as his command is concerned.
The above is not intended to suggest that any amendment to the present instructions of C.in C. W.A. should be made.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1940/19 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Proposed Submarine Watch on Crest. I concur with views of V.A.S. in his 1392/S.M. 105 of 13/10 and also with C.in C. W.A. 1947/18. (C.in C. H.F. 1507/19 to Adty.).

Trials of B-Class M.L. Request you will arrange for trials of a B. Class M.L. suitably escorted in rough weather in open sea.
Object is to test suitability of Class for ocean passage before sailing 3rd M.L. flotilla.
(D.T.S.D. 1527/10 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Recognition between Ships and Aircraft. It has frequently occurred that owing to mistaken identity friendly planes and ships have attacked each other. As Germans are known to be in possession of British aircraft it is understandable that a ship, on seeing an aircraft about to carry out a deliberate attack, should open

/ fire .....

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy (continued)

Recognition between Ships and Aircraft. (continued)

fire on her in spite of her friendly appearance. Although it is the duty of every officer to protect his ships against any attack every endeavour must be made to avoid risking the lives of our invaluable pilots by such mistakes. To guard against this every opportunity must be taken of encouraging pilots stationed near naval ports to visit ships and take trips to sea in them whenever possible. The question of improving the system of recognition is being investigated.
(C.in C. W.A. 1806/19 to Ships).

Ex- U.S. Destroyers.

Your 1532/17. Approved to work up BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS, and ST. MARYS at Plymouth. R.A.N.L. is requested to arrange for continuance of practices at Port Z A as far as possible. (A.C.N.S.H. 1969/19 to C.in C. W.A.).

Escort Forge for R.A.N.L.

Your 1600/15. In view of U-boats disregard of escorts other than destroyers propose that WHITEHALL VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON be transferred to Western Approaches command now. If approved they will be based on Liverpool. (C.in C. W.A. 1951/19 to Adty.)

Your 1951/19. Approved. (A.C.N.S.H. 2200/19 to C.in C. W.A.).

Movements.

BERWICK.

Request you sail her for Clyde as soon as Aircraft, with personnel and stores, have been embarked. As by A/M. 1628/14/10, BERWICK is to cease to be a unit of H.F. on arrival at Clyde. (C.in C. H.F. 1921/19 to B.C.L.)

Orkneys.

Movements for Night 19/20. (A.C.O.S. 1531/19).
State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S.1930/19).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines to-day. (A.C.O.S.1536/19).

ESPERANCE BAY.

Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P's 1130/17.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1609/19 to Adty.)

Portsmouth.

Movements for Night 19/20. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1613/19).

BEVERLEY)
EDLEMONT)
BROADWAY)

My 1201/15. Expect ships to pass C about 0001.2/23. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1661/19 to Adty.)

/ ALERT. .....

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

ALERT. Your 1757/18. Requires docking. (C.in C. W.A. 1707/19 to Adty.)

More. My 1550/5/7 (Invasion Operation Order P.E.) S.O. Patrol O, HOLDERNESS. FRANKLIN and 2 Trawlers working area Cromer to Sheringham L.F. anchoring at night. (C.in C. More 1708/19 to EGRET, etc.)

ANTUTUS Estimate pass Bell Rock 2100/19. (C.in C. Rosyth 1924/19).

PULOLO Intend sail at 0700/20 unescorted. ETA. Freetown 0800/1 (F.O. Belfast 2237/19 to C. in C. S.A.).

Operations.

Operation DHU. (Tromso). Phase 1. Operation D H U successfully carried out early morning 18/10. 11 swordfish attacked oil tanks and sea plane base. Many bombs on target area and some fires started. 3 skuas attacked only ship seen. Near misses. 5 skuas failed to get in owing to low clouds. Certain amount of A.A. fire over sea plane station. Heavy barrage over town. Enemy evidently surprised. 1 skua failed to return. Crew not known to be interned in Lapland. (BERWICK 1000/19 to Adty.)

My 1131/18 Lieut. Savage informs me that during Skua attack on Tromso all lights in town were burning. No sign of fires or damage in target area. Owing to surprise obtained he thinks Swordfish could not have arrived by 0530. Short and long range A.A. fire slight and no searchlights. Only one 4000 ton ship sighted in roads. During attack one near miss observed on her starboard side other bombs not seen. One Skua appeared hit during dive, broke attack and disappeared, fate unknown. No signs of British or enemy aircraft whole period. Forced landing made in Sweden after failing to locate carrier. F.A.A. W/T code for directing fighters now compromised. (N.A. Stockholm 1511/19).

Anti-E-boat Patrol off Smiths Knoll. Weather permitting tonight 70-foot M.T.B's to establish Patrol between Smiths Knoll Light Float and 56 Buoy after about 2000, returning Harwich at daylight. (C.in C. More 1240/19 to BEEHIVE).
Cancel my 1240. Weather unsuitable. (C.in C. More 1743/19).

/Patrol between .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

Patrol between Nieuport and Flushing.

Weather permitting tonight 60-foot M.T.B's to operate between Nieuport and Flushing. Any vessel met East of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 1244/19 to BEEHIVE).

Cancel my 1244. Weather unsuitable. (C.in C. Nore. 1745/19.)

Tonight VANOC VOLUNTEER WITCH patrol westwards to Portland and return. Reference A.M. 111/20 September they will cross the limiting line in the vicinity of Portland and may cross it anywhere if in pursuit of the enemy. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1423/19 to Adty.)

Any small Motor Craft sighted tonight will be hostile. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/19 to VANOC).

VERDUN.

Following appear to be main points of tactical interest in VERDUN's W.S. 18/10 report of encounter with E.Boats on 17/10. (WATCHMAN 1930/19 to Adty.)

M.T.B's.

2 M.F.B's are leaving Harwich now to operate near Z and 54 A. Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2156/19 to HOLDERNESS).

Engagement with E.Boats 16/10.

VIVIEN's 0015/16 VIVIEN engaged three 'E' boats at 0015/16 in 52° 55.5 N. 2° 3.7 E. Her prompt action frustrated their attack causing three torpedoes to miss. 'E' boats retired under smoke. It is thought that one was damaged but it was not disabled. (LONDONDERRY 1334/19.)

Submarines.

O. 23.

ETA. Tay Sanctuary 0800/20. (O.23 0631/19 to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

Proposed Dispositions.

C.in C. Western Approaches 1947/18.

A. I have already proposed that Channel Patrols operating from Portsmouth should be discontinued. My 1392/SM 105 of 13/10 refers.
B. The next two new construction U class are required to relieve H class at Harwich since the latter cannot stand winter weather in North Sea and are required for A/S training duties.
C. Thus at present the 2nd S/M Flotilla only is available for patrols off west coast of France. 8 S/Ms including minelayers are available. With this number 2 to 3 Submarines on patrol can be maintained.

/ D. .....

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Continued)

Proposed Dispositions. (Continued)

D. Consider that owing to strong tides and configuration of coastline one S/M cannot maintain an efficient patrol off Brest. Even by day three would be necessary to provide a reasonable degree of security.
E. A patrol off Gironde and another off Lorient still appear desirable.
F. I could move TITANIA and 3 "S" Class to the Clyde for operating off French Coast. A fourth S class could be made available by taking STURGEON from Blyth and a fifth by taking SWORDFISH from Portsmouth even this would barely fulfil all requirements and would mean that there would be no British submarines operating in the North Sea except U class.
G. I suggest sending TITANIA and 3 S class to Holyhock at an early date. The Transfer of this flotilla to west coast may anyway be desirable in order to meet the threat of invasion of Ireland.
H. In the meantime I suggest the 2nd S/M Flotilla provide one S/M off Lorient one off Bordeaux and when possible one off Brest. (V.A.S. 1112/19 to Adty.)

L.27) URSULA)

L. 27 in D.4. URSULA leaves Portsmouth at 1600/20 for 40° N. 6° W. and thence to Gibraltar. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/19 to Adty.) Route of URSULA (C.in C. Portsmouth 1447/19).

H. 43.

In harbour. (C.in C. W.A. 1406/19 to Adty.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1603/19).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/20. (V.A.S. 1718/19).

British Air Activity.

Nore Command.

All AirPatrols cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Nore 0833/19 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Rosyth Area.

My 0040/3. Offensive Patrol cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0944/19 to Adty.) S.A.2, except 2 Southern tracks, is notbeing flown P.M. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 1216/19 to Adty.)

S.A. 1 E. Northern track cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1514/19 to Adty.).
My 1346/14. This Patrol will be flown by Hudson aircraft until further orders. (C.in C. Rosyth 1602/19. Air Escorts tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 1702/19).

Lorient.

6 aircraft to attack tonight the Main Power Station of Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (Air Ministry 1530/19 to Adty.)

/ St. Eval ....

MOST SECRET.
19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

St. Eval. Your 1801/19. Reasons for intended withdrawal of MTU from St. Eval are as follows. (R.A.F.A.S. 1037/19 to Adty.)
Your 1037/19. MTU is to remain at St. Eval until further orders are given. (D.F.A.D. 1742/19 to R.A.F.A.S.)

Grumman Fighters. No. 804 Fleet Fighter Squadron at Scapa is now re-armed with 12 I.B. Grumman Fighters and appropriate reserves. Request all R.A.F. authorities concerned be informed. Squadron is retaining its Gladiators as alternative equipment until adequate supply of Colt 50 calibre ammunition for Grummans is secured. (D.F.A.D. 1631/19 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland. 3 Bombs dropped by one aircraft at 1750/19. All fell in water in western part of Portland Harbour. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1880/19 to Adty.).

Cork Light Vessel. Reports being attacked by Fighter Dive Bomber at 2030. Two Bombs missed by 100 yards. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2259/19 to Adty.)

Mining.

VENETIA. Sunk by mine 165° East Knob 3 cables. Have buoyed position. (WALPOLE 0855/19 to C.in C. Nore).
Number of survivors 84. (WALPOLE 1003/19 to C.in C. Nore)
Following information concerning loss of VENETIA has now been received.
VENETIA WALPOLE and GARTH in single line ahead speed 12 knots course 242 degrees in swept channel. VENETIA had just passed East Knob buoy when explosion occurred under engine room. Ship broke in two immediately bow and stern remaining afloat for a short time. WALPOLE, GARTH and BALMORAL rescued 96 survivors. A list is being prepared by executive officers of VENETIA. It is regretted that Commanding Officer is not among survivors and four other officers are also missing. (C.in C. Nore 1300/19 to Adty.)

Tyne. One ground Magnetic Mine detonated LL. in 074° North Pier Light 1½ cables at 1005/19. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1020/19 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Cancel my 0132/17. (C.in C. Rosyth 1636/9 to FLEETWOOD, CURACOA).

/ VELIA .....

MOST SECRET.
19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

St. Eval. Your 1801/19. Reasons for intended withdrawal of MTU from St. Eval are as follows. (R.A.F.A.S. 1037/19 to Adty.) Your 1037/19. MTU is to remain at St. Eval until further orders are given. (D.H.A.D. 1742/19 to R.A.F.A.S.)

Grumman Fighters. No. 804 Fleet Fighter Squadron at Scapa is now re-armed with 12 I.F. Grumman Fighters and appropriate reserves. Request all R.A.F. authorities concerned be informed. Squadron is retaining its Gladiators as alternative equipment until adequate supply of Colt 50 calibre ammunition for Grummans is secured. (D.H.A.D. 1631/19 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland. 3 Bombs dropped by one aircraft at 1750/19. All fell in water in western part of Portland Harbour. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1820/19 to Adty.).

Cork Light Vessel. Reports being attacked by Fighter Dive Bomber at 2030. Two Bombs missed by 100 yards. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2259/19 to Adty.)

Mining.

VENETIA. Sunk by mine 135° East Knob 3 cables. Have buoyed position. (WALPOLE 0856/19 to C.in C. Nore).
Number of survivors 84. (WALPOLE 1003/19 to C.in C. Nore)
Following information concerning loss of VENETIA has now been received.
VENETIA WALPOLE and GARTH in single line ahead speed 12 knots course 242 degrees in swept channel. VENETIA had just passed East Knob buoy when explosion occurred under engine room. Ship broke in two immediately bow and stern remaining afloat for a short time. WALPOLE, GARTH and BALMORAL rescued 96 survivors. A list is being prepared by executive officers of VENETIA. It is regretted that Commanding Officer is not among survivors and four other officers are also missing. (C.in C. Nore 1300/19 to Adty.)

Tyne. One ground Magnetic Mine detonated LL. in 074° North Pier Light 1½ cables at 1006/19. (F.M.S.O. North Shields 1020/19 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Cancel my 0132/17. (C.in C. Rosyth 1656/9 to FLEETWOOD, CURACOA).

/ VELIA .....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

VELIA.
(See also 29/10)

H.M. Trawler. Sunk in 51° 46' N. 1° 38' E. presumably having struck a Mine in about 51° 48½' N. 1° 44' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/19 to Adty.)

Isle of Wight.

One moored Mine German Type V swept and sunk in 50° 30' 30" N. 0° 50' 42" W. One Mine, same type, moored but showing in 50° 28' 50" N. 0° 49' 12" W. being dealt with by VERNON Mine Recovery Party. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1721/19 to Adty.)

ARIDITY.
(See also 29/10).

Motor vessel ARIDITY damaged by mine explosion in vicinity. East Oaze L.V. subsequently sank in approximate position 152 Nore L.V. 1 point 7 miles. All crew reported taken off by S.S. SEDULITY proceeding to Greenhithe.
(C.in C. Nore 2101/19 to Adty.)

S.S. ARIDITY after mining 400 ft. N.N.E. of East Oaze Light Vessel was towed by DANIEL M. to anchorage on Cant Edge, where she was abandoned in a sinking condition. There were no casualties and all crew were transferred to S.S. SEDULITY which vessel returned to London and anchored for night below Bean at Mucking. Technical details. (N.O.I.C. London 1110/20).

As there is no F S convoy tomorrow sweep are to meet MOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK and VESPER 5 miles north of Z at 0700 and sweep themselves through to Sule Skerry. If mines are found F N is to be swept through. (C.in C. Nore 2139/19 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

Town Class M/L Destroyers.

Four town class destroyers allocated to 1st minelaying squadron will not have completed working up on arrival at Port ZA. Will it be possible for them to carry out A/S practices at Tobermory for short periods between escort duties.
R.A.M.L. 2201/19 to WESTERN ISLES).

Enemy Intelligence.

A/S Trawler at Fejeosen.

Met suspected A/S Trawler at Fejeosen and to North. (C.23. 0631/19 to N.O.I.C.Dundee)

Enemy Units off S. Foreland.

Special Intelligence indicates two units operating in the vicinity of South Foreland between 0716 and 0741 today. No other indication of their position was received. Are you already receiving this information from South Foreland? (D.D.I.C. 1211/19 to V.A. Dover).

/ Your 1211 .....

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Continued).

Your 1811. Yes. Indications were that Units were not operating near South Foreland as reception was very weak. (V.A. Dover 1612/19 to Adty.)

Vardo. Finnish s.s. INNO RAGNAR stopped by German armed trawler late p.m. 17/10 and ordered to proceed to Vardo but released after 5 hours. Master destroyed by fire confidential documents before being stopped. No other warship seen at Vardo.
(Petsamo 1617/19 to D.N.I.)

E.Boats off Lowestoft. 2 Enemy Motor Boats in 162° Lowestoft 20 miles. (BASSET 2058/19 to Harwich W/T.) Indications are that E.Boats may now be off Yarmouth and possibly following Convoys.
(C.in C. Nore 2348/19 to HOLDERNESS, EGRET, BLACK SWAN, WINCHESTER, WOOLSTON).

Technical.

German Incendiary Bombs. Some are fitted to explode 3 to 5 minutes after beginning to burn. Explosive effect not great and a wet blanket will protect against it. (D.U.B.D. 1312/19: A Message 494 A.)

Investigate and report by N.O.I.C. Faroes' 2300/19 was addressed to Admiralty only.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1756/19 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

JOHILLA — Norwegian, 4042 tons. Due Cape Town 14/10. from Methil. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945/B/19 to Adty.)

ALTHENA — Dutch, 4930 tons. Due Durban 15/10 from Karachi. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945B/19 to Adty.)

MALOJA — My 1430/18. Sailing cancelled owing to Engine Room defect. (F.O.C.N.P. 1252/19 to Admty.)

FAME
ASHANTI — After further inspection it appears that FAME has broken her back. ASHANTI will require to be lightened all that is possible as she is very firmly aground amidships. Am arranging for aerial railway to be constructed to salve heavy weights. Heavy swell and restricted hours of work make operations difficult. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1545/19 to C. in C., H.F.)

IRIS — N.C.S. Tug CERVIA was in collision with SS IRIS (Dutch) at 1810/19. Slight damage to IRIS ship sailed a.m./20th.
(N.O.i/c Methil 1004/21)

MOST SECRET

19.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping**
S.C. 7.	2 A/S trawlers to escort (C. in C., W.A., 0803/19)
S.C. 8.	When escort leaves MARGAREE to proceed Halifax. (C. in C., W.A., 1603/19)
O.A. 232	ALYNBANK to give A/A cover. Escort WESTON (C. in C., H.F., 1234/19) Sail Methil,0630/20 (C. in C., Rosyth 1924/19)
E.N. 11	Submarine H.34 Clyde for Rothesay (A.C.O.S. 1652/19)
O.A. 231	Position (A.C.O.S., 1531/19)
O.B. 231	Sailed 19/10, 16 ships. Escort WANDERER, CASTLETON, PACATEE, ERICA.(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1831/19)
H.G. 45	Meet (C. in C., W.A., 2020/19 to ANTELOPE, FLEETWOOD, MALLOW, GLEANER)
S.L. 50	Meet (C. in C., W.A., 1910/19 to CLARE, CLEMATIS, ANEMONE)
F.N. & F.S.	Forecast of sailing and escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth 1919/19)
Routes	All merchant ships dailed for United Kingdom in convoy are to be provided with routes to Belfast, Oban, Clyde, Milford Haven and Barry Roads. Route to Methil is no longer required. (D.T.D. 1243/19 to N.C.S.O's)
Convoy Attacks	Re analysis of. Reply to his letter 5358/M 478 of 6/10. (D.A/S.W., to C. in C., W.A., 1937/19) Proposed to try running ocean convoys in adjacent outward and inward "lanes" each about 15 miles wide. Details. (C. in C., W.A. 1947/19) W.A.C.I. Section G 20/10 part III para 6. Following an attack on a convoy at night this instruction is to be modified to the extent that if contact is lost and not regained withi 30 minutes escorts are to rejoin the convoy, observing the U-Boat may have escaped on the surface and may attack the convoy again, and is probably working with one or two others. (C. in C., W.A. 2001/19)

/With a view.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy Attacks, Contd.

With a view to ensuring that signals reporting D/F fixes of U-Boats in the vicinity of a convoy are given priority in handling by the escorts of that convoy it is requested that the ship of the senior officer of the escort may always be included in the address as was done in your 1130/19. (C. in C., W.A., 2022/19)

W.A.C.I. Section G parts IX to XI. Reports appear to indicate that if the only evidence of attack is the torpedoing of ships in Convoy it will always be doubtful from which side attack has been made. Unless positive evidence other than the report of the side of the torpedo hit exists to show the direction from which the U-Boat attacked the subsequent search should be made on both sides of the convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 2049/19)

Troop Convoys

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA

1500 troops embark Greenock 20/10. Request fighter protection. (C. in C., W.A., 2101/19)

CASTOR SVEADROTT

Movements (Scapa W/T 0130/19, 0132/19, N.A. Stockholm 1102/19, Scapa W/T, 1905/19, 1908/19)

Cargo Space, A.M.C'S

C. in C., S.A. 1241/2/9. Propose available cargo space be placed at disposal of Elder Dempster Lines. (D. of S.T., 1226/19)

Firing on Submarines

Your 1146/4/6. re opening fire on submarines In view of reports surface raiders firing on merchant ships aerials warning also misuse British uniforms etc., suggest amendment be considered. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1309/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville.	Free French plans for attack on. (F.O.C. I.C.S. 0145/19).
Force H.	Ships have been maintained at one hours notice since receipt of Admiralty's 1926/17. In the interests of maintenance it is desirable to extend this notice as soon as circumstances permit. (S.O. Force H. 0850/19)
Exchange of Prisoners.	R.A.F. personnel detailed in your M.146 15/10, included in preliminary negotiations of N.A. with French colleague. (A.A. Madrid to 200 Group Gib. 0900/19).
Straits Patrol.	Your 1420/13. You should act in accordance with Adty. 0202/8/10 and 0253/22/9. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A. 1148/19).
STRASBOURG.	My 1856/17. If no further information received of this movement by 1400/19 cancel my 1926/17. (D.O.D.(F) 1323/19).
DRAGON.	Intend DRAGON shall proceed a.m./20 to patrol between positions 50 miles on a line 230° from Cape Saint Anne. Object interception of Vichy French Merchant shipping. (C.in C. S.A. 1901N/19)
Exchange of Prisoners.	French on instructions from French Admiralty states as follows:- By agreement between British Government and French Consul London regarding exchange of about 100 British sailors detained in North Africa against French sailors in England, steamer MASSILIA should sail from Casablanca to fetch French sailors. German armistice commission has authorised voyage. British Government has asked that same ship should repatriate British, but Germans will not give sufficient guarantees for this. French Admiralty therefore proposes to transport British from Casablanca to Lisbon in French trawler VICTORIA and are asking for necessary German guarantee. French Admiralty requests through me necessary route instructions for MASSILIA. (N.A. Madrid 1235/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

H.M.G. have decided that French escorted convoys will no longer be immune from contraband control in the Gibraltar Straits.

Authority to interfere with escorted French convoys to be used with discretion. Date of stopping first convoy is at your discretion, but should if possible be by the middle of week commencing 21/10. Ships in escorted convoys to be taken into Gibraltar. Escorting warships are not to be taken into Gibraltar but should be allowed to proceed if they do not try to prevent merchant ships being taken into Gibraltar. If warships resist, force may be used.

North Atlantic.

Troopships.

Re misleading enemy as reports arrival of Marine Brigade. (Govr. Gib. 0918/19 to W.O.)

Attack on Submarine DURBO.

My 2200/18. WRESTLER also took part in attack. (F.O.C.N.A. 1108/19). Informatic obtained from Italian U/B sunk last night indicates submarine LAFOLE is operating in area off Cape Tres Forcas. Destroyers of Eastern Patrol ordered to hunt. (F.O.C.N.A. 1256/19.

Your 2246/18.
It is not desired to realease this news for at least 14 days.
Local rumours of Italian prisoners being in Gibraltar should not be confirmed.
You will be informed if and when news is released eventually.
(V.A.S. 2311/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

KELT.

To fuel Lagos and return to patrol 24/10. (F.O.I.C.S. 0315/19. DELHI 0829/19)

French Motor Vessels.

It can be expected French Merchant Ships will attempt to scuttle if they think they will be captured or are taken to British ports. (C.in C. S.A. 1125/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Contd.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. — My 1345Z/15. Initial tests on boilers unsatisfactory. Completion delayed until 24/10. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1125/19).

Dakar. — Master KORSHOLM arrived Freetown from Dakar 13/10 reports arrival Dakar about 30/9 of 2 French destroyers, numbers A.54 and A.84 and 10/10 2 small submarines. (S.O. I. Freetown 1302/19).

W.S.3. — DORSETSHIRE to escort W.S.3. Fast to Capetown and onward to Aden. (C.in C. S.A. 1331N/19).

INDOCHINOIS Intercepted. — S.O.(I) Freetown's 1002/17. INDOCHINOIS was intercepted at 1941/18 by CORNWALL in position (? 005°) 40'N., 013° 35'W. As ship was stopped to board at 0537/19 attempt was made to scuttle, this was prevented ref. CORNWALL's 0941/19. CORNWALL and INDOCHINOIS with armed guard on board have now arrived Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1659N/19).

Mediterranean.

KENT. — Anticipated date of sailing. Might be employed as convoy escort while on passage to U.K. (C.in C. Med. 1123/19).

Operation. — Observations on Adty. 0203/18 and C.in C. Med. 1447/18. Orders to ARGUS for exercise of transports on passage are being forwarded to Adty. by Sunderland leaving about 22/10. (S.O. Force H. 1306/19).

Air Operations. — (Not naval) (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1334/19)

Operation B.8. — Orders to PANDORA. (Capt. S.1. 1431/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

"Uniform"

Operation Uniform or Collar.
Essential that equipment accompanying personnel embarked in H. M. ships be restricted to minimum for passage from Gibraltar. Request special precautions be taken to avoid disclosure of destination by marking of stores and by personnel ex PASTEUR while at Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H. 2104/19).

Convoys
M.W.3.
M.E.3.

Anticipated ships to be included.
TERROR and CORNWALL must remain at Malta till later opportunity.
(C.in C. Med. 1307/19).

East Indies.

SHROPSHIRE
Bombed.

SHROPSHIRE escorting A.P.3 bombed in 15° 20'N., 41° 49'E, at 0533Z/19.
Four bombs, no damage. (C.in C. E.I. 0616Z/19).

Transports.

Re supplies water for 3 ships in Adty. 1633/16. (S.S. & O India, 1234Z/19).

Bahrein
Bombed.

Bahrein bombed at 0015Z/19. No details. (C.in C. E.I. 0216Z/19).
3 or 4 aircraft. One parachute flare, 6 bombs. No damage or casualties yet reported. (A.H.Q. Iraq. 0905/19)
Now reported 35 to 40 bombs and 2 parachute flares. Bombs appear 100lb. Arabian Oil Co. at Jabal Dhahran, Ondandi, Arabia Coast, also reported bombed at 0001. G.M.T. /19, 7 bombs 1 oil and 1 troop pipe damaged. No information yet from oil fields at Ras Tanurah.
(A.H.Q. Iraq, 1535/19).

My 0216/19. About 3 unidentified aircraft dropped about 50 one hundred pound bombs near oil refineries Bahrein. No damage or casualties. Further 10 bombs dropped on Al Khobar Casoc Headquarters on mainland 026° 17' 30"N. 050° 14'E. No casualties one oil and one waterline damaged.
(C.in C. E.I. 1414Z/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

YIANNIS. — My 1403B/10. YIANNIS replied she was unable to sail without authority of French Admiralty. Further information will be passed as soon as received. (S.O.ICapetown 1805B/10 to C.in C. E.I.)

B.N.7. — Sailing telegram, Aden Section. (N.C.S.O. Aden. 0552Z/19).

B.N.8. — Date of leaving Bombay and route. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0906/19).

China.

Shipping Limits. — Adty. 1159/14. Northern limit of Hong Kong adopted but intend to retain 4,000 tons upper limites reduction might prejudice evacuation of Shanghai and Northern ports. (C.in C. China 0237Z/19 to Adty).

Tactical appreciation. — My 0743Z/9. Six copies of tactical appreciation Nos. 1 to 6 being sent to Adty 21/10 by safe hand air mail via Durban. (C.in C. China. 0253Z/19).

River craft withdrawal. — Am making arrangements to withdraw from Shanghai and Teintsin to Hong Kong and Singapore a number of river craft and small tankers which are laid up. Consider cost of preparing these vessels for passage and of voyage should be borne by Government but there-after that owners should remain responsible for upkeep if not required for naval service. Anticipate however that certain of these vessels will be so required. (C.in C. China. 0317Z/19 to Adty).

Indo-China Trade. — My 0825/18. Indo China decree dated 5/10 allows export of sundry goods including timber some minerals and rice except to British ports. Consul General Saigon has enquired whether permits for export of gunny bags Calcutta to Indo China suspended or likely to be as consignment expected shortly for rice shipments to Japan. It is for consideration whether coal and other permits should now be suspended in order to induce Indo China to adopt more

/favourable

1

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FORREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China Trade. — favourable attitude towards British trade. (C.in C. China. 0401Z/19 to Adty.)

French Evacuees. — Your 0547/1. Would facilities be available to send men to South Africa if we could arrange for them to be sent on from there to Lisbon by a Portuguese line. Contact with de Gaulle agents E. Brizay c/o Brizay Couser Ltd. P.O. Box. 66 Singapore with a view to his approaching the unwilling men to change their mind. (Hd. of M. 1149/19 to C.in C. China).

New C.in C. Far East. — Air Chief Marshall Sir R. Brooke- Popham appointed C.in C. Far East, responsible to Chiefs of Staff for operational contro. and general direction of training of all British land and air forces in Malaya, Burma and Hong Kong. Details of his directions. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. China 2329/19).

America and West Indies.

BUXTON. — Your 0114/19 (case of diptheria on board) Proposal to retain BUXTON approved. Ship is not to be sailed singly. (F.O.3 B.S. 1121/19).

Whaling Fleet. — My 1512/18. Decided to route ships separately sailing today. (S.N.O. Curacao 1152/19).

U.S. Course. — Your 0952/11. Navy Dept: can arrange 2 weeks course at Belleview Expl. Stn. Washington, followed by wek at A/S School San Diego. (N.O. Washington to Adty 1010/1

BOUGAINVILLE. — French, due San Francisco 26/10. Agent enquiring if ship permitted to return to French Indo-China on completion of loading Estimated sailing 6/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1254/19 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Dutch Shipping

Messages from Rotterdam signed Halcyonlyn are being received by Netherlands ships through agent in U.S.A. 2 such already reported forwarded by Winchester, 64 Broad St. New York. These telegrams order Master to remain in neutral ports. Netherlands Minister in Ottawa in Ottawa informed. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1316/19 to Admty)

JEANNE D'ARC BEARN

Your 2203/18. Reporting officer San Juan reports (A one) French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC and French aircraft carrier BEARN left Martinique afternoon 18/10. (S.O.I. Kingston 1845/19 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Whale Ships

S.N.O. Curacao's 1512/18. Presume Admiralty will direct route of whaling Fleet. If Whale Catchers are able to proceed South independently suggest Factory Ships should go by Pacific route for security. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1541/19 to Admty)

LAURENT MEEUS

Re Ottawa's 0927/18 re Belgian Tanker LAURENT MEEUS. This vessel is possibly employed on fuelling a raider. On a previous occasion she left Los Angeles on 6/8 for Kobe and returned on 30/9, but was not reported as having ever reached Japan. (D.E.W.D. 2215/19 to C. in C., A.W.I)

U.S. Mission

American Naval Mission has asked for a set of recognition charts, films and models as used for training Naval personnel in aircraft recognition. Have you any objection to release for this purpose of the charts of British Fighters, Bombers, Coastal and Naval aircraft prepared by the Air Ministry? (D.T.S.D. 1905/19 to Air Ministry)

U.S. 8. CANBERRA

My 0829Z/18. In view of C. in C., East Indies 0732Z/18 to N.Z.N.B. and Admiralty only, intend U.S. 8 should not sail from Sydney before (date).
Arrangements will therefore be made for fitting out MAURETANIA. (A.C.N.B. 0132/19 to Admty.)
Your 0732Z/18. Concur voth proposals. H.M.A.S. CANBERRA will be required for escort of U.S. 8. from about vicinity Cocos Is. see Australian Commenwealth Naval Board 0132Z/19. (A.C.N.B. 0355/19 to C. in C., E.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CORDELIA — Arrived with grain from Russia. (Macrae, Bucharest, 1129/19)

MADRID — Diver clearing bottom. (Consul, Las Palmas 1245/19)

MOST SECRET

19.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy S.C. 7.

Send one destroyer to assistance of Convoy S.C.7. position 0003/19 057° 10' N., 010° 38' W., course 130 speed 7 knots. 0113/19.

S.C.7. Have rounded up 8 ships 4 for Clyde 3 for Barry Road 1 for Mersey. Estimate 10 ships torpedoed. Estimated position 056° 06' N., 009° 10' W., course and speed 115° 7½ knots, no other escort in company. (FOWEY, 1001/19, to C. in C., W.A.)

Have found no further trace of convoy or disabled ship am sweeping to south east course 138° 15 knots. (SKATE 1504/19 to C. in C., W.A., and LEITH)

13 Ships Attacked

Convoy S.C.7. has suffered at least 13 ships sunk or damaged since 16/10. Position of the rest of the convoy is still obscure, but it is known that FOWEY in Irish Sea has 8 ships in company. (D.O.R. 20/10)

CLINTONIA (S.C.7.)

Believed torpedoed and sunk in S.C.7. 19/10 (D.O.R. 22/10)

BLAIRSPEY (S.C.7.)

BLAIRSPEY, British 4155 tons torpedoed at 0030 in position 056° 58' N., 011° 04' W., Capable of 6 knots. Have detailed FOWEY to search vicinity herself. Am endeavouring to rejoin convoy. (LEITH 0126/19) (see BLUEBELL, 0825/19)

EMPIRE MINIVER
GUNBORG
NIRITOS
(S.C.7.)

Have on board Captain and 34 crew British ship EMPIRE MINIVER. Captain and 22 crew Swedish steamer GUNBORG. Captain and 13 crew Greek Steamer NIRITOS. Standing by for further survivors until relieved at daylight. (BLUEBELL 0315/19)

MANCHESTER PRODUCER (S.C. 7.)

Have on board Captain and crew of 18 of BLAIRSPEY, Captain and crew of 36 of MANCHESTER PRODUCER. Have now on board 203 survivors. Am rejoining convoy. (BLUEBELL 0825/19)

/ASSYRIAN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

ASSYRIAN EMPIRE BRIGADE SOESTERBERG (S.C.7.)	At 0300 picked up survivors ASSYRIAN (Commodores ship) EMPIRE BRIGADE and SOESTERBERG in position 057° 12' N., 010° 43' W., Commodore is on board in critical condition. Have not found any other ships of convoy. Am joining FOWEY. Noon position course and speed 056° 36' N., 008° 52' W., 147° 14 knots. LEITHER 1234/19)
BLAIRSPEY 1 other	Following received:- 2 abandoned timber ships BLAIRSPEY and one unknown in position 057° 22' N., 011° 22' W., impossible connect up, sea scale 7 (very high sea) Remaining in vicinity until weather moderates, 14 survivors on board other lifeboats adrift 1800/19 (ends) (F.O.I.C., Greenock 2050/19)
CARSBRECK (S.C.7.)	Hove to position 056° 02' N., 007° 55' W., owing to CARSBRECK being unable to steer in heavy easterly gale. Must wait for weather moderate before proceeding. Rescue tug SCHELDE not yet arrived. (HEARTSEASE 1939/19)
KABALO	Informed that U-Boat landed 26 survivors from torpedoed KABALO at Santa Maria Island 0700/19. No further details available here. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1542/19)
UGANDA (Convoy HX 79	(British 4966 tons) Ship torpedoed in position 056° 37' N., 017° 15' W., (WHITEHALL 2125/19)
	My 2125/19. UGANDA torpedoed still afloat. One other ship torpedoed and sunk. JASON standing by. (WHITEHALL, 2305/19)
2 Ships	Tanker torpedoed in position 056° 41' N., 017° 08' W., and one other in position 056° 41' N., 016° 49 W., Suspect two U-Boats. (WHITEHALL 2335/19)
	Steamer torpedoed in 56.38 N., 16.51 W., (STURDY, 2240/19)
LOCH LOMAND (H.X. 79)	(British, 5452 tons) Torpedoed in convoy H.X. 79 between 2125/19 and 0100/20 (D.S. 411)

/MATHERAN.....

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

MATHERAN (H.X. 79)	(British 7653 tons) Torpedoed in Convoy H.X. 79 between 2125/19 and 0100/20. (D.S. 411)
H.X. 79 11 Ships Attacked	Convoy H.X. 79 was attacked in position 250 miles W.N.W. Bloody Foreland at 2125/19. Between this time and 0100/20, 11 ships were reported sunk or damaged. (D.O.R., 20/10)
TRITON (H.X. 79)	(D.O.R. 22/10)
SHIRAK (H.X. 79)	(British 6023 tons) (D.O.R. 22/10)

Submarines Reported

1014	D.F. probable U-Boat unreliable fix 57° N., 22° W., (D.D.I.C. 1130/19, 1144/19)
1936	56° - 57° N., 17°-20° W., (C. in C., W.A., 2021/19)
2131	56°- 57° N., 14°-16° W., (C. in C., W.A., 2213/19)
2125	A.F. message 56.37 N., 17.15 W., at 2025/19 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2234/19)
2346	A.F. message 58°-59° N., 18°-20° W., at 2246 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0101/20, 0112/20)
Off Lorient	Patrol S.A. 12 A modified as stated in CC/G2/16/10 is to be flown daily until further orders. U-Boats may be expected to cross this patrol later each day according to the time of high water at Lorient. (Air Min. 1912/19, to Admty)

Submarines Attacked

DURBO Sunk, 18/10.	Further operations against Italian U-Boat (See North Atlantic)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Convoys and Escorts in N.W.Approaches — C. in C., W.A., to attend meeting to be held by P.M. 21/10 (V.C.N.S. 1436/20)

Defence of U.K.

Rosyth — Defence of. Re A.M. 0925/19. F.C. did not appreciate importance of adequate defence of Rosyth both as Fleet Base and for a dockyard for docking important units of Fleet (C. in C., Rosyth 1100/20) A.M. propose to move the one flight of 232 Sqdn. from Skilton to Turnhouse. Request your views. (D. of L.D. 1411/20 to C. in C., H.F., C. in C., Rosyth) Reply to 1411/20: inadvisable (C. in C., H.F. 1907/20)

Deluge — At 0200/20 (D.C. 0201/20) At 1400/21 (D.C. 1449/20, 1958/20)

Movements

JASON — Am proceeding in accordance with C. in C., W.A., 0921/20. E.T.A. 1315/ (JASON 1050/20)

GLASGOW — Sailing postponed. Humber mined. (F.O.Humber 2138/20)

Operations

M.T.B Patrol — 2 M.T.B's will patrol between Smith's Knoll and 56 Buoy tonight Sunday. They have been told to keep clear of convoys. (C. in C., Nore, 1049/20 to WESTMINSTER, WALLACE, WOLSEY LOWESTOFT.

Enemy off Prawle Pt. — Despatch one Sunderland forthwith to search for and send sighting report of suspected enemy surface craft reported by D/T in position 180° Prawle Pt. 6 miles at 1200/20. Destroyers proceeding from Plymouth JAGUAR, KASHMIR and BLYSKAWICA. After sighting report has been sent enemy may be attacked. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 1225/20)

Patrol between Eddystone and Wolf Rock keeping about 20 miles from land. Return to Plymouth by 0830/21. Look out for 3 M.G.B's returning Fowey. (C. in C., W.A., 1626/20 to KASHMIR, JAGUAR, BLYSKAWICA.

/Dover ....

MOST SECRET

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Dover Shelled Trawler Attacked by Aircraft	45 shells fell in Dover area between 1107 and 1308 to-day. Ten fell in in town, 12 in harbour and 23 outside. No damage to naval property or personnel. Trawler O.K.U. machine gunned near number one buoy by one enemy aircraft at 1220. One officer wounded (V.A.Dover, 1814/20)
E-Boat off East Anglia	One enemy War Motor Boat position 52° 8' N., 1° 56' E., (GUILLEMONT 2257/20) My 2157 unidentified fast craft steering 020 lost touch. (GUILLEMONT 2204/20)
Nore	Patrols tonight (C. in C., Nore 0948/20)

Submarines

O 24	Proceed to patrol position (Capt. S. 9. 0751/20)
O27	Leave patrol 0200/22 (Capt S. 5. 1013/20)
URSULA	Route orders amended (C. in C., Portsmouth 1043/20, Capt S. 5. 1313/20)
TIGRIS Attacked by Trawler	V.A. (S) reports at 0155/16. in 45° 44' N., 3° 45' W., darkened trawler tried to run TIGRIS but was repulsed by gunfire and perhaps sunk range 20 yards. (V.A.S. 1051/20)

British Air Activity

Bombing Restrictions	for sailing of URSULA asked for (S. 5. 1315/20)
Rosyth Air Defence	C. in C., Rosyth 1100/20, D. of L.D. 1411/20 C. in C., H.F., 1907/20. See Defence of U.K.

/Enemy Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Chatham — Very slight damage in air raid about 1120/20 etails (Suptg. C.E. 1335/20)

Yarmouth — Parachute bombs dropped near Docking this evening. (Hunstanton) (C.G.Yarmouth 2230/20) Parachute bomb was destroyed at 1430/21. (C.G.Yarmouth 1935/21)

SS. ROTA — Attacked 1340 3 miles S.S.W. of Copinsay by unidentified aircraft with short bursts of machine gun fire. No damage or casualties. (A.C.O.S. 2330/20)

CONAKRIAN (O.A. 232) — CONAKRIAN, British, 4876 tons, in Convoy O.A. 232. Torpedoed 310° 9 miles Girdleness. (Wick Radio, 1840/20) Torpedoed at 1942/20. 2 drifters from aberdeen and ug from Peterhead proceeding. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2010/20) Position 134° Girdleness 8'. Engine damaged. Requirs towing, otherwise all right. Am standing by. (CLEVELAND, 2120/20) Your 2010. Have picked up 29 of crew. Some stayed in ship. Lifeboat, aberdeen, standing by. Am proceeding. (CLEVELAND, 2325/20)

Cdr. Meek R.N.R. Commodore of O.A. 232 on board S/S CONAKRIAN now anchored off Aberdeen awaiting possible entrance to dock tomorrow morning reports:-

At 1835 B.S.T. 20/10 in position Girdleness 310° 9 miles, two unidentified aircraft approached from east, one flew height about 200 ft. across leading ships, other turned South and flew about 200 ft down the line.

When 1st aircraft was in position over inside leading ship dull detonation was felt in CONAKRIAN and heavy shock followed by smoke and steam to height of 50 ft. starboard side amidships. Aircraft showed no lights.

Damage:- (details) No other known casulaties All naval personnel accounted for. On board CONAKRIAN 15 and 2 naval ratings. Escort believed CLEVELAND reports picked up 29 including 2 naval ratings.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2114/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Hartlepool — Two Red mines detonated by LL trawlers in 54 39 56 N., 01 06 42 W., at 0912 ports remaining open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1015/20)

Harwich — Land guard reports 6 heavy explosions in quick succession very distant to the eastwards at 1100/20. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1101/20)

Sweeping of East Coast Shipping Channels — Most likely time for E-Boats to mine the south part of the east coast shipping channels is during the period from three hours after dark till three hours before daylight on any night when weather conditions enable them to maintain a high speed. Sweeping the starboard side of the channel in the same direction as the convoy proceeds and a short time before it passes, appears to be the best protection against mines that the convoy can be given with our existing facilities. Arrangements for trials to be undertaken. (C. in C., Nore, 1206/20 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

HOPPER No 2. Damaged 13/10 — N.O.I.C Hartlepool's 1043/13 as follows:- At 0836/13 when approx. one cable West of Datum Buoy Cargo Fleet Steamer HOPPER 2 sustained damage from mine explosion extent of damage not yet available but engine room partially flooded and bridge sustained some damage. HOPPER in tow of 2 tugs is entering Tees. No casualties. HOPPER was wiped 30/9 (F.O.I.C.Tyne 1624/20)

Aberdeen — Enemy seaplane suspected laying mines position 057° 00' N., 001° 45' W., (ALYNBANK 1900/20)

VELIA (Mined 19/10) Harwich. — Skipper reports VELIA mined yesterday, was weighing anchor, mine mooring wire hooked over fluke of anchor and mine probably exploded on bottom. He thinks mine may have been an old one previously sunk. Today paddlesweepers detonated one mine in position 51° 49' N., 01° 43 E., and cut two mines German 'X' star type in position 51° 47' N., 01° 42' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2012/20)

Humber — Humber closed to navigation owing to mines. (F.O.Humber 2137/20)

GLASGOW — GLASGOW sailing postponed, Humber mined. (F.O.Humber 2138/20)

/ARIDITY.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

ARIDITY (Mined 19/10)

Have report from Master of E OASE L/V giving exact position vessel when mined. L/V was swung on to the flood. Position of ARIDITY at time of explosion (1340) was bearing N.E. 40 yards distant from L/V. Master of L/V described a large explosion and oil and mud were thrown up some of which splashed about L/V. (N.C.S.O. Thames,2358/20)

Enemy Intelligence

Raider Report BRITISH LADY MARLYN

56.53 N., 26.20 W., BRITISH LADY reports being followed by mysterious ship. (Valentia Radio, 0935/20, corrected 1105/20) LAURENTIC and PATROCLUS to investigate raider report (C. in C., W.A., 1223/20) Raider signal cancelled (C. in C., W.A., 2359/20) From MARLYN my 0935/20 Cancelled (Valentia Radio 1941)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CARADOC — See A.& W.I.

FOXHOUND — Admty. 2040/16. Earliest date FOXHOUND is expected to be ready 24/10. Some difficulty is being experienced with trials. (C. in C., Nore, 1224/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
H.X. 79	SHIKARI and SARDONYX to join forthwith. (C. in C., W.A., 1223/20) Raider report (see Operations) susequently cancelled.
O.A. 232	26 ships. Escort WESTON CAMPANULA PEONY additionnl to Scapa, ALYNBANK (N.C.S.O. Methil 0855/20)
SVEADROTT CASTOR	Position at 0001/20. (Stockholm, 1038/20)

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Intercepting French Ships.

045. Your 2327/19. As explained in my 1214/7 and my 1601/5 and in S.O. Force H's letter of proceeding 73/9 of 14/10, French escorted convoys passing through Straits invariably keep either in or on the edge of Spanish territorial waters. At this moment 2 vessels escorted by a destroyer are passing through to Eastwards keeping close into Morocco Shore. Experience has shown that they do not leave these waters so long as they are kept under the observation of our patrol and they can in fact continue in these waters all the way to Oran or Casablanca. Unless therefore Spanish territorial waters are to be infringed or French territorial waters are to be entered, it is extremely unlikely any interception can take place. Although therefore under these conditions it is unlikely incident will arise, I submit strongly that everything should bedone to avoid any possibility of incident until after Italian operation "Uniform".
S.O. Force "H" concurs.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1320/20, to Adty.)

French Units.

Your 1300/16. Request following be passed to French Admiralty. British Admiralty acknowledge with gratification communication of French Admiralty concerning movements of their submarines and escorting warship. At same time they are sure that French Admiralty realise necessity for any such passages of the Straits being made during daylight. At night any darkened ship would naturally be regarded as hostile, and even were ships illuminated it would be necessary to stop and board them to ensure that this was not a ruse de guerre of the enemy.
(Ad. of M. 1440/20 to N.A. Madrid).

Defer action on my 1440/20 unless action already taken. (V.C.N.S. 2355/20).

North Atlantic.

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS.

Brazilian ship SIQUEIRA CAMPOS left Oporto 18/10 for Lisbon for orders. Very desirable to intercept on leaving Lisbon and if bound for South America to be sent in under armed guard even if holding Ship Navicert.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1753/20).

Air Patrols.
Italian U/B sunk.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A.S. patrols two surface recco. patrols two aircraft co-operated with destroyers in special A.S. search in area south of 35° 40' N. between 03° 45' W. and 02° 30' W. Area covered by patrols Spartel to 01° 30'W.

/ Above A/S search

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (continued)

Air Patrols Italian U/B sunk. Above A.S. search carried out as result of information obtained from Italian DURBO reported sunk in my A, 183 19/10.
1 further Italian submarine located and sunk today by destroyers during above search. 11 survivors.
(200 Group, 1737/20).

My 1856/19. Second U-Boat sunk 11 survivors. Details follow.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1758/20).

South Atlantic.

Overdue Ships. My 0945/19. JOHILLA and ALHENA arrived (S.O.I. Capetown 1055/20).

DELHI
MILFORD
KELT. From (? C.S.1) Transfer petrol to R.F.A. LUCIGEN or to shore before sailing. Report expected time of arrival position B on 24/10 to C. S.1 repeated DELHI.
On arrival return to position B at 2 hour intervals until contact made.
(DELHI to MILFORD and KELT, 2319/20)

Mediterranean.

Air Report. Malta situation up to 1700/20. All times G.M.T.
Glen Martin of 431 Flight reported sighting at 1411, 1 cruiser and 1 destroyer in position 37° 40' N. 16° 10' E. course 120°, speed approx. 15 knots. 0741 to 0917 Swordfish of 830 Sqdn F.A.A. despatched to locate submarine reported off N.W. coast of the island returned at 0920 having failed to locate enemy. 1019, 2 enemy formations reported approaching from north, alarm given. 6 Hurricanes, 2 Gladiators up. Raid did not materialise. All clear given at 1153.
(H.Q. Malta, 1715/20).

Operations. Observations on Admty. 0206/18 and delay of departure of convoy from Gibraltar.
(C.in C. Med. 1251/20, to Admty.)

MALAYA. Admty. 1959/13. Condenser trouble. Necessary to take action as soon as BARHAM arrives. Alternative proposals.
(C.in C. Med., 1467/20).

BERWICK
GLASGOW } Can be fitted R.D.F. before leaving U.K. Asking whether type 286 should be fitted.
(A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med., 1703/20)
Reply: Request R.D.F. type 286 be fitted. Has BARHAM any form of R.D.F?
(C.in C. Med., 0033/21).

/ Enemy Report ....

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Enemy Report. 1 enemy cruiser and 1 destroyer in 37.40 N., 16.10 E., at 1511 zone mines 1., course 120° speed 15 knots. (N.O.I.C. Malta, to PANDORA and PARTHIAN, 1757/20).

Your 1155/3. Following from M.E.W.

Turkish Trade. Now learn from reliable source that Turkey has given assurances to Italians that they will authorise export of Turkish goods in Italian vessels from any Turkish port to Italian ports.

Not absolutely clear whether these assurances refer to trade with Italy or to local trade with Dodecanese but latter considered probable. (D.E.W.D. 1833/20 to C.in Med.).

German U/Boats, Galatz. My 1023/16. Two (?submarines) are ready at Galatz and will be sent to Constanta others will be ready soon.
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 1610/20.)

Italian Prisoners, Exchange. Request consideration may be given to commencement of negotiations for exchange of naval prisoners of war in near East. Consider Italians returning to Italy from Egypt would be likely to refute mendacious reports put out by Italian press and radio, and so help British propaganda.
(C.in C. Med., 2133/20 to Adty.)

East Indies.

Aden Bombed. R.A.F. Operational Summary to 1200/20. Para. 3, Kenya. 15/10. 3 unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Aden, 41.30 E., 1.45 S. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1148/20).

U.S.S.A. Leaving Colombo 1130 Z/21. CALEDON to escort, and on relief by Red Sea Force escort to proceed Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 0710 Z/20).

Convoy and LEANDER Bombed. LEANDER escorting B.N.7 reports being bombed at 0748 Z/20 position 014° 26' N. 042° 26' E., no damage reported. (C.in C. E.I. 1302 Z/20).

LEANDER and Convoy attacked by 2 destroyers at 2320 Z/20 (see 21/10).

Raid on Bahrein. Further to my A.405 19/10. Considered this flight was in nature pure propaganda and with secondary object of inducing us to disperse wide our available A.A. defences and fighter aircraft. It is possible that Bahrein was not the original objective for attack as according to our records of track made aircraft did not maintain a steady course. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1206/20).

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Ports. — Admty. 2242/18, re allied ships resuming calls at New Caledonia and French Ports in N.Z. Station. Instructions in my 0011/13/9 were amended to agree with A.C.N.B. Melbourne's 1300/25/9 and similar changes notified by other stations. (C.in C. China 0413 Z/20).

LAURENT MERUS. See also A.W.I. — My 2215/19. Suspicion attaches to Belgian Tanker LAURENT MERUS, sailed Los Angeles 19/10 for Singapore with diesel oil consigned Mitsui Yokoharna. Master states cargo intended for enemy and that he will receive instructions when at sea. He would be obliged if we pick him up. Vessel previously left Los Angeles 6/8 for Kobe, returning 30/9, but was not reported as having ever reached Japan. Raider which captured TROPIC SEA on 18/8 in Tasman Sea is believed to have fuelled in Pacific, and LAURENT MERUS may be intended to meet this or another raider. (D.D.I.C. 1713/20 to C.in C. China).

American and West Indies.

"Towns" Destroyers. — BURNHAM, BURWELL, BRADFORD, CHESTERFIELD, and BROADWATER sailed for U.K. 1130 G.M.T. /20. CAMERON again delayed by defective distillers. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1082/20). My 1201/15. Time to pass position (C). (R.A. 3 B.S., 1846/20).

CARADOC. — My 1062/17. To leave patrol to arrive Bermuda (date). Defective turbine to be taken in hand on arrival Bermuda. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1021/20).

French Trawlers. — Sailings reported by Vice-Consul, St.Pierre rumoured bound for Casablanca. (Govr., Newfoundland, 2300/20) (C.in C. A.W.I. 1051/20).

Shipping Attacks. — Your 1143/18. Reference is presumably to D.M.S. Part 1 para. 70. It is considered that prohibition cannot be relaxed. To do so would encourage ships to run grave risk by proceeding to render assistance and being themselves attacked. (D.T.D. 1154/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

LAURENT MERUS. See also China. — My 0226/18. Washington reports LAURENT MERUS being refused clearance pending investigation Los Angeles report now doubtful that cargo is destined for enemy. Indicated Master pro-British but other ranks fear reprisals if ship is

/ voluntarily .....

LAUNCH MENUS (See also China) (continued)

voluntarily surrendered and thought Master's message requesting seizure would overcome this difficulty. Master LIPPENS telegraphed Belgian Ambassador Washington 17/10 that ship will follow route permitting constant contact with Belgium and British Authorities.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1101/19).

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LA PLATA — My 1906/17. Has discharged further 60 tons steel bars. (Consul, Vigo, 1048/20).

GERMANIA — Activity on board. Preparing to leave. (Consul, Ponta del Gada, 1245/20).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy H.X. 79

My 2335/19. 4 more ships badly damaged in vicinity 56.41 N., 16.48 W., trawlers ANGLE and LADY ELSA standing by (WHITEHALL, 0035/20)
Still being attacked. One more ship sunk, one slightly damaged (WHITEHALL, 0146/20) 4 full lifeboats, 56.25 N., 16.20 W., (Aircraft, 210 Sqdn, 0819/10) D.F. bearings at 0955/10 indicate U-Boat in your vicinity and is reporting you (D.D.I.C., 1102/20 to WHITEHALL and other ships)
Lifeboat in 56.10 N., 11.37 W., 20 survivors (Aircraft 210 Sqdn., 1135/20)

UGANDA
BILDERDYK
MATERAN
(H.X. 79)

Sailing tug SEAMAN to assistance of UGANDA in 56.37 N., 17.15 W., (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0129/20)
Have on board 39 survivors from BILDERDYK 38 from UGANDA and 2 from MATERAN.
LOCH LOMOND has further survivors from MATHERAN. UGANDA still afloat at 2359 but making water and listing heavily, with 5 feet of water in engine room and stoke hold and very unlikely to last. No trawler standing by. Am rejoining convoy. (JASON, 0130/20)
Am proceeding to join ARABIS (JASON, 0318/20)

LOCH LOMOND
(H.X. 79)

Position 56° N., 15.30 W., chased by submarined (Port Patrick Radio, 0457/20)
Have reached LOCH LOMOND, torpedoed at 0630, 56.15 N., 14.50 W., (JASON, 0810/20)
My 0810. Amend position to read 56.15 N., 15.24 W. LOCH LOMOND holed aft, still afloat salvage doubtful. Have about 172 survivors on board. No ship in company, request instructions. (JASON, 1040/20)
Your 1040 rejoin convoy collecting any scattered ships. Estimated position of convoy at noon 20th was 056° 06' N., 014° 25' W., course 91°. (C. in C., W.A., 1147/20 to JASON)

H.X. 79
Ships Attacked

Your 0635/20, enquiring whether convoy was closely formed when first attack took place and whether it scattered later, and 0733/20 enquiring whether contact was made with submarine by any escorting ship. No contact was made by escort. Convoy was well closed up at first attack on starboard wing and never scattered. 35 ships in company now plus Netherlands submarine. LOCH LOMOND reported S.E. convoy. Following ships known to be torpedoed. LA ESTANCIA, SITALA, WANDBY, WHITFORD POINT, SWONA, RUPERRA, CAPRELLA, UGANDA, MATHERAN, BILDERDYK, JANUS but WANDBY, SITALA, UGANDA may still be afloat.

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

H.X. 79
Ships Attacked
Contd.,

Estimated position noon B.S.T+ 20/10 056° 04' N., 014° 00' W., JASON and ANDREW not yet rejoined. HIBISCUS detached to search for lifeboats, LADY ELSA proceeding to Londonderry or Belfast with survivors. 261 survivors reported so far. WHITEHALL will have to proceed Londonderry a.m./21 for fuel. ATHELMONARCH holed but keeping up. Visibility for first attack 1 mile increasing to 4 miles later. State of sea 25. (WHITEHALL 1114/20, to C. in C., W.A.,)

TRITON

My 1114/20. Add TRITON (Norwegian 6607 tons) to list of ships torpedoed or missing from convoy. (WHITEHALL, 1400/21)

Convoy S.C.7.
CARSBRECK
(Torpedoed 18/10)

Estimated position, course and speed 0800/20 55.58 N., 07.52 W., 120° 5 knots. CARSBRECK in company. (HEARTSEASE, 0730/20)
If another escort is with convoy, use your discretion as to proceeding Clyde to land survivors or to Liverpool (C. in C., W.A. to LEITH, 0923/20)

Your 0923/20. Rounded up 3 ships in position 056° 08' N., 008° 11' W., at 1430/19. One bound Belfast, two bound Clyde. Escorted them until 0400 when touch was lost to Eastward of Altacarry. Have not seen FOWEY. Am now proceeding Liverpool. Expected time of arrival Bar Light Vessel 0800/21. Present position 055° 00' N., 005° 20' W., (LEITH 1216/20, to C. in C., W.A.)

BLAIRSPEY
(Torpedoed 19/10)

Your 0130/20 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall. Endeavour join SALVONIA standing by BLAIRSPEY and unknown ship in 57.22 N., 11.22 W., at 1800/19 awaiting moderate weather. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to St. OLAVES, 0840/20) Your 1215 SALVONIA with BLAIRSPEY in 57.18 N., 12.21 W at 1415. Proceed to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to tug St. OLAVES, 1609/20)

HURUNUI
SHEKATIKA
CONVALLARIA
BOEKELO

Only one ship in company visibility one mile Am proceeding to Clyde to land 157 survivors from HURUNUI, SHEKATIKA, CONVALLARIA BOEKELO before dark. Position 055° 27' N., 066° 25' W., speed 12 knots. (FOWEY 1000/20)

/Have sent.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked, Contd.

Have sent SOMERSBY to Clyde. My position course and speed are 055° 10' N., 055° 50' W 140° 9 visibility 1 mile. Proceeding to Liverpool. (SCARBOROUGH 1155/20)

DENPARK — British, 3491 tons. Being followed by submarine, 53.08 N., 26.20 W., (DENPARK and Valentia Radio, 1736/30)

SULACO (O.B. 229) — British, 5389 tons. Torpedoed night of 19-20/10. (D.O.R/22/10) 2325/19, 57.25 N., 25° W. Sunk (D.S., 413)

CUBANO (O.B. 229) — Norwegian, 5810 tons. Torpedoed night of 19-20/10. (D.O.R. 22/10) 2325/19, 57.25 N., 25° W., sunk. (D.S. 413)

? — Intercept. DE 95 addressed HXDI here chased by submarine about 20 miles Southwest of last attack, master, please come. 0016/20. (Valentia Radio, 0123/20)

Summary of Vessels Attacked in Convoy HX.79. 19-20/10.

BILDERDIJK	Dutch	6856	/19	39 survivors in JASON, 0130/20.
MATHERAN	British	7653	/19	Survivors in JASON & LOCHLOMAND, 0130/20.
UGANDA	British	4966	2125/19	Still afloat 2359/19 38 survivors in JASON (0130/20)
LOCH LOMAND	British	5452	/19	Holed aft, still -afloat 1040/20 JASON.
LA ESTANCIA	British	5185		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
SITALIA	British	6218		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
WHITFORD POINT	British	5026		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
WANDBY	British	4947		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
RUPERRA	British	4548		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
CAPRELLA	British	8230		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
JANUS	Swedish	9965		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20½
ATHEL MONARCH	British	8995		Holed but keeping up (WHITEHALL, 1114/20)
TRITON	Norwegian	6607		Reported by WHITEHALL 1400/21.
SWONA	British			Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20
SHIRAK	British	6023	2245/19	

Total, 15.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Summary of Vessels Attacked in Convoy S.C.7.
18-19/10.

SCORESBY	British	3843		Sunk
LANGUEDOC	French	9512		Abandoned
CARSBRECK	British	3670	0145/18	Damaged, hove to in gale, with HEARTSEASE.
CONVALLARIA	Swedish	1996	2020/18	
SHEKATIKIA	British	5458	2100/18	Abandoned
ASSYRIAN	British	2962	2330/18	
EMPIRE BRIGADE	British	5154	2330/18	
BLAIRSPEY	British	4155	0030/19	Abandoned. Crew rescued by BLUEBELL.
NIRITOS	Greek	3854	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
GUNBORG	Swedish	1572	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
EMPIRE MINIVER	British	6055	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
BEATUS	British	4885		Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
SORSTERBERG	Dutch	1904	/19	Survivors in LEITH
BOEKELO	Dutch	2118		Survivors in FOWEY and GREENOCK.
AENOS	Greek	3554		25 survivors landed Greenock by EAGLE CLIFFE.
CLINTONIA	British	3106	/19	
MANCHESTER PRODUCER	British			Reported by BLUEBELL 0825/19.

Total, 17.

MOST SECRET

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20.101.1940
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0305 Submarine reported on surface in 56.34 N., 16.15 W., (ARABIS, 0305/20) Am proceeding to join ARABIS (JASON 0318/20)

0349 Enemy submarine following us, position 58.52 N., 28.52 W., (Unknown ship, 0349/20) (D.D.I.C. 0647/20)

0902 D.F., indicates there may be a U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1030/20, to ESPERANCE BAY, LAURENTIC, etc.,)

0955 D.F. bearings indicate U-Boat still in your vicinity and reporting you. (D.D.I.C. 1102/20 to STURDY, ARABIS, WHITEHALL, etc.)

1245 D.F., 150' to westward of Fastnet, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1355/20)

1543 D.F., 55.40 N., 16° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1641/20)

1708 D.F., 54.30 N., 15° to 18° W., (C. in C., W.A. 1809/20)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No news of the one recently off Portugal.

German : No news of the one near 45° N., 16°W
Four are West of 20° W. between latitudes 53° N., and 60° N., one of which was possibly in about 59° N., 29° W., at 0349/20
One in vicinity of 56° N., 10° W. probably leaving for Lorient.
One was in about 57° 30' N.,-58° N., 16°-18°W at 1225/20.
At least two in vicinity of 56° N., 14° W one about 150' West of Fastnet at 1245/20)
(D.D.I.C. 1425/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

Italian U-Boat Sunk — See North Atlantic.

By TIGRIS 5/10 — TIGRIS reports was missed by torpedo in 46° 44' N., 5° 28' W., at 2140/2.
(2) La Coubre light was periodically lit at full brilliancy from 0530 until 0600 on 5/10. The 3 U-Boat were well separated. 4 torpedoed were fired at third U-Boat in 45° 41' N., 01° 25' W., range 2500 on 135 track enemy speed 10 knots. Explosions were heard after 2 minutes 4 seconds and 2 minutes 11 seconds and on looking 30 seconds later cloud of brown smoke seen and only 2 U-Boats very haphazard depth charging followed.
(3) At 2115/11. 3 darkened ships momentarily sighted 25 miles south west of Gironde but disappeared in rainstorm course north or south.
(4) Trawler referred to in my 0942/16 was sighted on four occasions in same position.
(5) At 0155/16 in 45° 44' N., 03° 45' W a darkened trawler tried to ram but was repulsed by gunfire and perhaps sunk range 20 yards. Another trawler showing lights was in the vicinity.
(6) A/S patrols are maintained westwards and northwards from Grande Passe De L'Ouest.
(V.A.S., 1051/20)

Use of Aircraft — Represented to me by one of my Captains that possible means of checking U-Boat successes in N.W. Approaches is to develop greatly increased air activities in that area. This particular service would not require aircraft posessing strong military characteristics or highly trained personnel. Proposal is that any civil aircraft which has good endurance and ability to carry a depth charge should be co-opted into this service also any of the less modern type of bomber not required for R.A.F. offensive.
I recommend this proposal be actively pursued. An obvious and highly desirable advance on proposal is to obtain the use of air bases in Eire. (C.in C., H.F., 1429/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE

At 0200/21. (D.C. 0210/21) At 1400/21. (D.C. 1405/21)

Nore Command
Notice for Steam

Air R/C incomplete. Steam to be kept at half an hours notice till 0900/21. (C. in C., Nore, 0541/21 to AURORA etc.,)

Rosyth Dockyard
A/A Defences

Your 1907/20 and my 1411/20. Intend to concur with move while Fleet based as at present. It is a question of balancing defence requirements with very limited resources (A.C.N.S. H. 1319/21 to C. in C., H.F.

Your 1101/20. Understand that improvements in A.A. fire control have been made locally, also one additional lighter flight is being moved to Turnhouse. Additional guns are not available except at expense of other vital targets. Existing situation must therefore be accepted for the present. C. in C., Fighter Command, is aware of impertance of Rosyth. (A.C.N.S. H. 1320/21 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Your 1905/19. Concur while Home Fleet is based as at present. (A.C.N.S. H. 1322/21 to Air Ministry)

Policy

Enemy
Red Cross Ships

Admiralty message 1903/26/8 refers. No German ship is exempt from attack unless it is one of those promulgated as a hospital ship in A.F.O. 3356/40 or a future A.F.O.
2. By day all other ships, whatever their marking may be sunk in accordance with Admiralty message 1212/21/9.
3. By night or in low visibility, any vessel under 3,000 tons marked with a Red Cross may be conclusively presumed to be a rescue boat and th erefore liable to attack unless its markings are illuminated when it is first observed and continuously thereafter. In the latter case, if circumstances permit, the vessels should be brought in for examination.
4. It is considered desirable that German vessels marked with the Red Cross should be examined whenever possible in order to obtai evidence of the work on which they are employed. Therefore, when circumstances permit
(a) Rescue Boats should be captured.
(b) Recognised Hospital Ships should either be examined at sea or brought into port in accordance with Article 4 of the 10th Hague Convention. See Prize Manual p. 103. (1st S. 1950/21 to C's in C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

GLASGOW	F.O. Number's 2138/20. Passes Boom 1000 E.T.A. May Island 1815/21. (C.S. 18 1000/21 to C. in C., Rosyth)
FOXHOUND	My 1224/20. Confirmed ready to sail from Sheerness on 14/10. (C. in C., Nore, 1048/21 to C. in C., H.F.) Your 1224/20. Destination Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1414/21 to C. in C., Nore.)
Nore Command	Movements for night to 1200/22. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/21) (C. in C., Nore, 1750/21 to VEGA, VIMIERA)
Western Approaches	Situation at 2000/21. (C. in C., W.A., 1325/21)
CARDIFF	A.M. 1620/3. Intend sailing CARDIFF for Clyde p.m./22. (C. in C., W.A. 1352/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Orkneys	Movements for night 21/22. (A.C.O.S. 1531/21) Trawler Lines today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/21)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 21/22. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1603/21)
Western Channel	Night Report. (C. in C., W.A., 1617/21 and 1743/21)
Dover	Patrols for night 21/22. (V.A.Dover 1252/21 and 1714/21)
VEGA VIMIERA	Sweepers meeting you North of Z at 0645 (C. in C., Nore, 2205/21 to VEGA)
JASON	Position at 2300, 56° 54' N., 7° W. steering 224° at 15 knots (JASON 2222/21 to HIBISCUS)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Sweep from Nieuport to Flushing. M.T.B. 17. Sunk

Interception from VI at 0036 reports M.T.B. 17 sunk, cause unknown as yet, no casualties 14 and 16 returning. (C. in C., Nore, 0205/21 to Admty.)
M.T.B. 17 sunk by explosion while attacking small craft of trawler type approximately one mile north of Ostend Breakwater. Syko m machine with cards up to 25/10 lost in wreck Trawler was attacked by torpedo fire which missed, then by machine gun fire, M.T.B. 14 and 16 subsequently retired under fire from shore batteries having previously damaged bow of 17 which was last portion remaining. No casualties in any boat. Cause either (A) own torpedo striking bottom or (B) controlled mining. (BEEHIVE 0432/21 to C. in C., Nore.)

Dover Shelled

Shells fell in Dover area intermittently from 1340 to 1743 about twelve rounds in all. Of these two fell in sea outside harbour, several in vicinity of Granville Docks and remainder in the town.
Sound ranges report shells were fired from battery at Tresorerie.
CLYTHNESS slightly damaged, one rating killed and one rating slightly injured. Nineteen civilians injured. (V.A.Dover 1916/21 to Admty.)

Operation D.N.

Intend to carry out operation D.N. on night 23/24 with NAIAD and BONAVENTURE, and an operation on similar lines near Stadlandet with 3 Tribals on same night. (C. in C., H.F 1936/21 to Admty.)
Operation D.N. to be carried out as follows (a) 23rd October. (b) NAIAD and BONAVENTURE. (c) 1800/23 (d) 0730/24. (C. in C., H.F. 2244/21 to F.O.C. 15 C.S.)

Force E.

Operation on lines of D.N. to carried out by 3 ships of 6th D.F. during night 23/24 near Stadlandet where shipping must leave the Inner Lead. Ships to arrive Sullom Voe p.m./22, thence to 62° N., 0° E., at 1900/23 thence to operation area, and to return crossing 1° E. by sunrise 24th. Force will be known as Force E. Code word REBEL. F.O.C. B.C.S. has full discretion to postpone the operation. (C. in C., H.F. 1943/21 to F.O.C. B.C.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

UTMOST
UPRIGHT } Admty. 1335/12 C. in C., Portsmouth requested to sail UTMOST and UPRIGHT for Mediterranean on 28/10 and 30/10 respectively. (V.A.S. 1023/21 to Admty)

Lorient
URSULA
PORPOISE
CACHALOT

In view of recent heavy merchant ship sinkings it is considered that more U-Boats than usual will be returning to Lorient during the next few days.
URSULA should therefore be ordered to patrol for a period not exceeding 48 hours in the vicinity of 47° 30' N., 10° 00' W., (V.C.N.S 1337/21 to V.A.S.)
U-Boats are expected to return to Lorient shortly. PORPOISE patrol in the vicinity 046° 56' N., 005° 16' W., CACHALOT in vicinity 047° 24' N., 006° 42' W., PORPOISE will be ordered to leave for base p.m. 24/10 Capt. S.2. 1554/21)
My 1734 Part One Enemy U-Boats are expected to be returning from our trade Routes to Lorient during next few days. URSULA after passing through position B.2. 048° 30' N., 010° W., is to proceed to patrol in the vicinity of position B. 3. 047° 30' N., 010°W until 1200/26th October and is then to proceed in accordance with previous route orders (V.A.S. 1733/21 to URSULA)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0700/22. (V.A.S. 1747/21 and 0558/22)

Sinking M/V's at sight — Am giving submarines proceeding to and from Patrol in Bay of Biscay permission to sink any M/V met south of 49° N., (V.A.S. 1907/21 to Admty)

British Air Activity

804 Squadron — To retain 12. I.E. and 6 A.R. Gladiators until adequate supply of colt ammunition for Grummans is secured. (5th S.L. 1227/21 to RANAS)

Gladiators for Mediterranean — Any Gladiators at Northern Air Stations nor required for 804 Squadron or for complements of training units should now be prepared for shipment to Mediterranean. (5th S.L. 1227/21 to RANAS)

/S.A. 2. and S.A. 3..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

S.A. 2 and S.A. 3 — Patrols cancelled this afternoon owing to low visibility (C. in C., Rosyth 1304/21)

Balloon Barrage — Your 1010/13 Approved. Action being taken by Balloon Command. (D. of L.D. 1742/21 to C. in C., Nore.)

Balloons. Propose to close haul in Dover Straits — Reference shelling of C.W. 14 between South Goodwin and No 10 buoy when some 200 or more rounds were fired. It has been suggested that this was rendered possible by use of R.D.F. on the balloons being flown by M.B.B. vessels.
It is proposed that, for trial, balloons should be close hauled to minimum possible height during passage through Dover Straits in future convoys. It is hoped that balloons below the height of Dover Cliffs may prove innocuous. (C. in C., Nore, 2136/21 to Adty.)

Special Air Protection for Rosyth — A. 169 21/10. The special importance previously attaching to Tyneside is now transferred to Rosyth area. You are requested to arrange as from 1200/13 for all aircraft to be routed so as to avoid the defended area there about. Air Ministry is requested to repeat this requirement to any other effected Authority. Notification will be issued as soon as necessity for this request no longer exists. (H.Q.F.C. 2359/21 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy Aircraft Destroyed — ST. OLIVES reports large explosion in mid-air at 2018 after M.G. fire from ships. 3 cables N. 70° E of East Oaze. (Commodore, Sheerness 0952/21 to Adty.)

Shoreham — Following received from R.N.O. Shoreham. At 1100 low flying enemy aircraft straddled Shoreham Harbour with stick of bombs seriously damaging Shoreham Wharfage Company's premises. 2 cranes out of action 5 men killed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1254/21 to Adty)

/Here Oil.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Mere Oil-Fuel Depot — Attacked by one Heinkel 111 at 1240. 6 bombs No casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1310/21 to Adty.) Minor damage to toe of Mound at S.E. corner of Depot, and new evacuating Pump House severely shaken. (O.C. Works, Portland, 1803/21 to C.E. in C.)

Dover — Enemy aircraft shot down 3 barrage balloons at 1105/21; and 11 light H.E. bombs fell on Dover at 1250/21 (V.A. Dover 1916/21 to Adty.)

Coventry — R.N. Store Depot and Admty. Gun Mounting Store Coventry hit by number of high explosive and incendiary bombs night of Sunday 20/10. and again night Monday 21/10 October. Several storehouses and workshops badly damaged main Office Block almost completely gutted, and all telephone and teleprinter communications destroyed. The whole establishment still functioning but at reduced rate. No casualties to personnel. (N.S.O. Coventry 1630/21)

Mining

Humber — Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 0357/21 to Admty.)

Day and Night Sweeping — My 1823/7. This will be repeated by 4 ships of 5th M/S Flotilla ahead of E.N. 11. sailing 0800/22. (C. in C., Rosyth 1221/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Plymouth — Since my 1108/21/9. Three Red mines detonated by single "L" sweep. Bearings frm Eastern Breakwater Beacon.
0720 123° 3 cables at end and under tail;
0740 124° 2.7 cables 50 yards on Port Side Tail;
0828 124° 3.9 cables 50 yards ahead of 2nd electrode 100 yards to Port.
(C. in C., W.A. 1356/21 to Admty.)

Humber — Red mine exploded by LL trawlers at 0255/21 155° Spurn Point 1.4 miles. Red.Inside. Far. Another at 0500/21 132° Spurn Point 2.35 miles. Red.Inside. Near.Unusually big explosion with flame. Also at 2130/20 097° Spurn Point 5.6 miles believe exploded on striking surface after release from A/C. (F.O. Humber 1500/21 to Admty.)

/Straits....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining- Contd.

Straits of Dover

504. My 1615/20. Routine sweeps today Monday QZS 104 and 105 North Goodwin Light Vessel to Dover by one pair oropesa trawlers 40% nothing found.
QZS 105 Lydd Light Float to South Goodwin by one pair LL trawlers 30% Nothing found.
QSS 220 total number of mines swept 27 includes one mine which damaged HAMBLETON.
In addition convoy CE 12 Sweepers found three on 4th October and Convoy CW 14 sweepers one on 11th October. (V.A.Dover 1815/21 to Admty.)

Lyme Bay

2 moored Mines Type X cut and sunk in 50° 23' N., 2° 41' W., (F.O.I.C. Portland 1835/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest

Aircraft report 7 vessels, probably Destroyers, in 245° Brest 15 miles at 115, steering for Brest. (V.A.S. 1307/21 to Submarines Area B.)

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

GRANEY — British, 2051 tons. Newcastle to London with Coal. Ashore on Saltocar Rocks, Redcar. Tug standing by. Lifeboat Secretary thinks she will float daylight tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0045 and 0100/21 to Adty.)

SHIKARI — Defect in steering engine. May become serious. Returning to Londonderry. (SHIKARI 0705/21)

SEROOSKERK — Dutch, 8456 tons. From Fremantle, due Durban 17/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town. 1125/21 to Adty.)

FOWEY — When leaving Gourock Pier in easterly gale sustained damage above water line. Expect complete repairs 27/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1611/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

ST. LOMAN — A/S Trawler. Reports engine trouble and may break down before reaching port. Now making 7 knots in 52° 36' N., 19° 16' W., (HAVELOCK 2030/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.B. 234	Of group 3 only available to escort are ARROW and AMAZON. (Capt D. 12 to C. in C., W. A. 1755/21)
H.G. 45	Became separated during dark hours in full gale. Position (GLEANER 1301/21) Have rounded up 6 ships, position etc. (ANTELOPE 1900/21)
O.L. 8	Detach ARUDEL CASTLE Remain with O.L. 8. until 25° W., then convoy disperse. (C. in C W.A. to MARGAREE, 1153/21)
S.L.F. 52	DUNNOTTAR CASTLE to act as ocean escort (C. in C., W.A. 1425N/21)
S.L. 52	DUNNOTTAR CASTLE and MOOLTAN to escort (C. in C., 1425N/21)
H.X. 80	Meet 33 ships. (C. in C., W.A. to HASTINGS PHILANTE, WANDERER, CASTLETON, FLEUR DE LYS PICOTEE 1138/21) Informing CLYDE when enemy will enter her area (C. in C., W.A. 1755/21)
W.N. 25	My 1215/21. Amend escorts to read H.M.T. NORTHERN GEM, ARCTIC EXPLORER (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1500/21) Cancel my 1500/21 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1748/21)
S.C. 9.	Owing to damage to escort this convoy will not sail till 1600 G.M.T./24, three days late. (D.T.D. 1705/21)
H.X. 79 H.X. 79 A	Cancel my 1523/21. H.X. 79 is to be escorted to Clyde. JASON, HIBISCUS land survivors at Greenock then escort H.X. 79 A to Methil. (C. in C., W.A. 1949/21)
SVEADROTT CASTOR	Position (N.A.Stockholm 1111/21)
SOTRA SOIKA SVANA SARNA	Intend sailing 1400/21 in accordance Admty. 1712/20. Route to St. Vincent and Sierra Leone. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1345/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

W.N. and E.N. Convoys

Your 2258/18.(All O.A Convoys to be abolished after O.A. 235 and W.N. and E.N. Convoys to be run between Liverpool and Methil.)
Till more escorts are available intend to provide two A/S Trawlers to escort each W.N. and E.N. Convoy and a small Trawler Group at Oban for linking up duties.
Intend to transfer corvettes of Northern escort force to West Coast bases.
While need for A.A. protection for East Coast Convoys is fully appreciated consider that Sloops should be relieved from this duty as soon as possible by HUNT Class Destroyers in order that the long endurance of the sloops may be made use of to reinforce ocean escorts of S.C. and Gibraltar convoys. (C. in C., W.A., 1851/21 to Admty.)

Admty. 2258/18. Div. I of Belfast trawler force is to be reconstituted to provide two A/S Trawlers for each W.N. and E.N. convoy. It is estimated that this service will absorb 28 trawlers. Provision of these escorts must take precedence over other requirements.
A group of 5 A/S Trawlers is to be detailed for linking up duties at Oban.
Trawlers of least value for Ocean work are to be detailed for above duties.
C. in C., Rosyth has been asked to provide Corvette escort for the E.N. convoys on 26, 27 and 19/10. (C. in C., W.A., 1855/21 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Hospital Ship.

French Consul London has been advised by H.M.G. that 250 sick are ready to be repatriated from England. French Admiralty propose to send Hospital ship CANADA to effect this on same conditions as trip in September. She leaves Toulon 29/10. Request route instructions to arrive Gibraltar 31/10.
(N.A. Madrid 1331/21 to Admty.)

Situation.

Your 1441/18. Your appreciation of the Naval situation as given in your paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) is concurred in.

With regard to (d) and (e) the political aspect is involved with many other considerations but you may rest assured that the Naval aspect of the position has been fully represented.
(V.C.N.S. 2100/21 to S.O. Force H.)

U/B LAFOLE sunk.

My 1758/20. After being brought to surface by depth charge attack by GALLANT Italian S/M LAFOLE was rammed and sunk by HOTSPUR in position 035° 50' N. 002° 53'W. at 1645/20. One officer and 8 ratings were rescued. Propose same time for publishing sinking as for Italian S/M DURBO. Names of survivors from both U-Boats will be forwarded by Sunderland shortly. (F.O.C. N.A. 1640/21).
My 1640. Successful location of Italian Submarine LAFOLE was due almost entirely to courageous behaviour of Harold Frederick Drown, P.O., Sub Lieut. Peter Louis Meryon R.N., George Henry Andrews, Stoker P.O., all of WRESTLER, and Sub Lieut. William Basil Willet, R.N., FIREDRAKE, who boarded Italian Submarine DURBO when vessel was on the point of sinking and managed to obtain confidential documents.
Names of these Officers and Ratings which are given in order of merit are forwarded for immediate awards for their gallantry on this occasion.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1656/21).

Air Raid.

Air raid in progress this station.
(F.O.C. N.A. No T.O.O./21.

/ Your 2355/20 .....

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued).

Your 2355/20 re communication to French Admiralty. Action deferred. (N.A. Madrid 1319/21).

MASSILIA, French Exchange. My 1235/19 re exchange of British and French sailors, following from French Admiralty. MASSILIA leaving Casablanca for Liverpool will pass through following positions. Please give assurance that route instructions beyond point (d) will be given MASSILIA direct in time. (Bnds). (N.A. Madrid, 1902/21).

Las Palmas. Bi-Weekly report, known definitely military defence works being intensely continued in North and South areas of this island, trenches, machine gun posts also underground petrol dumps being constructed. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1650/21, to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Overdue Ships. SEROOSKERK due Durban 17/10 from Fremantle not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1125/21).

FENLAND
WESTERNLAND. Admty. 2337/15. Intentions for move referred to. (C.in C. S.A. 1051/21). Asking for onward escort of WESTERNLAND to Mombasa. (C.in C. S.A. 1725 M/21 to C.in C. S.A. (See C.in C. E.I. 1216/22).

INDOCHINOIS 1659/19. CORNWALL first instructed vessel to return Dakar and escorted her. On receipt of CORNWALL report I ordered that INDOCHINOIS was to be brought into Freetown in accordance my 2133/18. This is reported Natal telegram 1909/19 stating vessel was turned back to Dakar and Natal telegram 1037/20 gives impression that vessel was still en route to Dakar when she attempted to scuttle, whereas she was then well on her way to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1525 M/21 to Admty.)

ANTONIS CHANDRIS sunk 9/9. S.S. EMA DE LARRINAGA arrived Buenos Aires 21/10 with Chief Officer and nine crew of Greek ship, ANTONIS CHANDRIS this latter ship was stopped at 1945/8/9, in position 11° 25' N 34° 10' W and sunk two hours later by bombs placed on board. Rescue was effected 27 days later.
Description of raider.
(N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 1845/21).

/ Raider's Captives .....

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued)

Raider's Captives. Reported from German source that German raider ANNELIESE ESSENBERGER has crews of seven ships on board including that of the S.S. BIDURY. Graded B 3. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1635/21) (see also German Merchant Ships).

Enemy Intelligence. For D.N.I. from Monnell, Security Officer, Force Freetown. Result of interrogation of 28 Poles and 1 Sergeant R.A.M.C. (British) ex France via Oran, Casablanca and Dakar arrived Freetown 10/10. Will proceed U.K. by DUNBOTTAR CASTLE. (Comdr., Sierra Leone Area, 1300/21).

Mediterranean.

R.D.F. Admty. 1703/20. Request R.D.F. type 286 be fitted to these 2 ships. Has DARMAN any form of R.D.F? (C.in C. Med., 0033/21 to Admty).

Alexandria Raid. Air raid 0215 to 0400. About 12 aircraft, 60 to 70 bombs, no damage no casualties. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1101/21).

STRASBOURG My 1210/18. French N.A. states STRASBOURG flying flag of Adm. Laborde left Toulon 15/10 with several other important units to carry out practice firing and for training period off coast of Provence. (N.A. Madrid, 1140/21).

Navy Department inform me that an informant at Vichy has heard STRASBOURG and twenty other units left Toulon 18/10 and thinks important units at Toulon and elsewhere are being sent to Syria to oppose naval and military operations in that area and so ensure loyalty to Vichy. Informant also states French Navy has called up 12000 additional men and that Foreign Minister Bonnet has gone to Marseilles to meet German and Italian missions there.
Navy Department state French N.A. Madrid knows nothing of STRASBOURG's movements. (N.A. Washington, 1745/21).

"U" Class Submarines. U-class submarines proceeding to Mediterranean are to be transferred to 1st Sub-Flot. from date of arriving Gibraltar.
(V.A.S. 1208/21).

/ Operation "Uniform" .....

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Uniform".

C. in C. Mediterranean's 1251/20. If "Uniform" is postponed consider it desirable that H.M. Ships should sail from U.K. as arranged to enable reconnaissance in force to be carried out in Western Mediterranean to vicinity of Balearic Islands by Force 'H', BARHAM, BERWICK and GLASGOW. This reconnaissance would serve as cover for "Uniform" observing that on previous occasions departure of Force to Eastward has been precursor to definite operation involving close approach to South Sardinia.
(S.O. Force H, 1359/21, amended 1926/21).

Loss of Sidi Barrani.

Your 1559/18. A.T. 1744/10 was intended as an intelligence summary of facts for information only. Words "military value" applied to Sidi-Barrani were misleading as they were intended to be read in narrowest sense. Naval Staff agreed with your appreciation of results of loss of Sidi-Barrani and the increased danger of any further advance is fully appreciated here vide A.T. 2207/21/9.
(Md. of M. 1942/21 to C.in C. Med.).

Malta, Stocks.

Re policy of stocks at minimum of 6 months' consumption. Consider it desirable to take advantage of present enemy inactivity to store and victual Malta. (V.A. Malta, to C.in C. Med., 2309/21).

French Shipping.

My 1509/17. French Ships CHAMPOLLION and MARIETTE PACHA leaving Marseilles 23/10 due Beirut 26/10 and guarantee implied carrying no cargoes also granted safe passage. T.O.O. 1129/21.
(C.in C. Med., 1246/21).

Turkish situation.

Reply to 1700/18 for Admiral Kelly
(C.in C. Med. 1937/21 to N.A. Angora).

East Indies.

F.N.7. Convoy attacked by Destroyers.

At 2320 Z/20 Convoy in position JEBEL TEIR 35 was attacked by two destroyers which approached from Northward and retired in 290 direction.
Enemy fired two torpedoes at YARRA and shelled convoy. AUCKLAND and YARRA engaged enemy. LEANDER and KIMBERLEY chased. LEANDER opened fire returning at 0010 Z/21 to rejoin convoy having lost sight of enemy. No damage so far reported.
(LEANDER to S.N.O. Red Sea 0145 Z/21).

/ Convoy B N 7 .....

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Convoy B N 7 was attacked by 2 Italian destroyers in position 015° 38' N. 041° 24' E. during night of October 20/21. Enemy fired 2 torpedoes at YARRA and shelled convoy. AUCKLAND and YARRA engaged and LEANDER and KIMBERLEY chased enemy. LEANDER after opening fire lost touch and returned to convoy. KIMBERLEY proceeded to intercept enemy off Harmil at daylight and sighted and engaged a destroyer bearing 250 degrees 7 miles from position 016° 37' N. 040° 26' E. at 0250 Z/21. No damage to convoy so far reported. Part 2 follows. (C.in C. E.I. 0356 Z/21).

KIMBERLEY damaged.

My 0356/2 Part 2 Italian destroyer reported aground at 0330 Z/21 and abandoning her. KIMBERLEY hit in engine room is still 12 knots at present under fire from shore batteries.
(C.in C. E.I. 0358/21).
My 0358/21. Enemy destroyer blown up.
(C.in C. E.I. 04402/21).
My 0356/21 KIMBERLEY proceed 0437Z on one engine, 15 knots, course 080 degrees.
(C.in C. E.I. 0502 Z/21).
My 0502/21. KIMBERLEY is holed above the water line. Both engines out of action. Position at 0640Z. 21st 016° 31' north 040°, 32' east in tow of LEANDER.
LEANDER and KIMBERLEY were bombed at 0720Z. No damage reported. (C.in C. E.I., 0812Z/21).

Djibuti. French Evacuations.

Reference Governor Aden's 100 dated 20/10 to Colonial Office, I adhere to views expressed in my 1/22822 of 16/10. Am firmly of opinion that we should not allow removal by sea of 4 battalions from Jibuti.
As regards ESPERANCE to make Concession allowing her to proceed Jibuti will only encourage hope that further concessions can be extracted from us and so possibly weaken elements who may be disposed to resist Italian demands.
(C.in C. M.E. 1720/21 to W.O).

Lourenco Marques. S.O.I. Capetown's 1806/19, increase of Greek ships calling at Lourenco Marques, passed to you with reference to my 1068/11. (C. in C. E.I., to Admty. 0736 Z/21).

Convoy O.M.4. DURBAN CASTLE, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, LLANSTEPAN CASTLE and SELANDIA arrived 0600 Z/21. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 0645 Z/21).

/ WESTRALIA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued).

EUSTRALIA	To leave Colombo 0430 Z/22 for Bombay (route). Will be required to escort convoy B.M.3. (C.in-C. E.I. 0728 Z/21.)
OLIMBANEN Contraband.	My 0746/12 Mauritius report dated 30/9 states that Madagascar authorities may withhold from OLIMBANEN loading permit for cargo of graphite consigned New York if vessel is to call at Indian Port. Also reported that vessel imported tinned milk and pine oil from South Africa to Madagascar. (C.in C. E.I. 0738 Z/21).
MAROUSIO LOGOTHETI	My 1805B/19. Chesor Mauritius reports MAROUSIO LOGOTHETI has completed unloading at Tamatave and future movements depend on orders from French Admiralty, (S.O.I. Capetown, 1413 B/21).
U.S.S A.	Route. CALEDON to escort to 12°., 45°., Suez Canal, Red Sea Force, S.O. SHROPSHIRE. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1159/21).
C.M.4.	Convoy C.M.4 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0540 Z/21).
Shipping Intelligence.	Report from officers Greek ship EUTHALIA, arrived from Diego Suarez. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1823 B/21).
Air Attack on Massawa, 19/10.	A. 049 21/10. Part 3 begins Para. 2 Sudan. 19/10. 3 Blenheims, 45 Squadron made high level attack on fuel tanks Massawa. One bomb fell on jetty and another among a group of lighters at jetty 200 yards north of target. 4 250 lb. bombs were hung up of which one fell off and hit buildings on Massawa Island and two others fell in sea. Slight A.A. fire experienced. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1206/21).
Air Attack on Convoy. B.M.7. 20/10.	My A. 095 20/10. Summary No. 130, add 1 S.79 attacked convoy B. M. 7 at 0747. Enemy located by Blenheim escort after bombs fell and chased for approximately 30 mins. intercepted south of Massawa. Ensuing combat broke off with enemy aircraft losing height rapidly emitting large cloud black smoke from fuselage. No damage to aircraft which subsequently crashed taking off Kamaran as already reported. Now ascertained crash caused by failure one engine believed not due enemy action in above combat. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1751/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Attitude. My 1401/19 further information confirms that both Admiral Decoux and Terraux are definitely subservient to orders from Vichy and no more co-operation from them can be expected. Discrimination against British trade is definitely taking place. I submit that Gunny Bag industry controlled by Calcutta is our greatest stranglehold and if stopped may cause Governor General to reconsider his present attitude. I am opposed to interfering with French shipping on high seas as this might provoke retaliation by French naval forces. I am withdrawing the naval liaison officer from Saigon but leaving the N.C.S.O. for the present. (C.in C. China. 0313Z/21 to Admty.)

French Shipping. Your 1254/19. Subject to contrary instructions from Admty., it is not my intention to capture French ships on the high seas. (C.in C. China, 0531 Z/21).

River Gunboats. My 0447/8. CRICKET and TARANTULA should reach Singapore by end of October. Is it still the intention that they should leave the China Station? (C.in C. China, 0513 Z/21).

LAURENT MERUS Admty. 1713/20. Master of TILAWA reported tanker LAURENT MERUS painted grey all over, deeply loaded, departed Osaka 8/9. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0545 Z/21).

French Warships. By D.F. at 0350 Z/21, French cruiser LAMOTTE-PICQUET off Cap St. Jacques, reliable fix. Single bearings 0515 Z/20 indicated French sloop AMIRAL CHARNER off Indo-China Coast. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1461/21).

C.in C. Far East. The appointment of A.C.M. Sir R. Brooke-Popham to new post of C.in C., Far East. Details. (W.O., to C.O.C.'s Malaya and Hong Kong 2230/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French Shipping. My 1351/20. Names of ships sailed are MARSEILLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, JACQUESCOEUR, DUQUAY TROUIN. One of the two sailing within 48 hours is BOIS ROSIE.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2047/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

CHRISTMFIELD. 4 cases of diphtheria, more suspects. Ordered to return to St. John's N.F.
(BURNHAM, 0125/21).

EMILE BERTIN. BEARN. Your 2203/18 and your 1003/20.
Navy Department informs me that EMILE BERTIN returned to Martinique p.m./18 after swinging ship since her exercising with JEANNE D'ARC. American destroyer reports having seen BEARN at Martinique on 19/10.
(N.A. Washington, 1204/21).

Australia.

Suspicious Ship. KARITANE reported a suspicious vessel at 1347 Z/20 in position 039° 09' S. 140° 35' E. Air searches were carried out but no suspicious vessel was sighted.
(A.C.N.B., 0047 Z/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KEHAYA. Arrived from Russia 3,000 manganese ore. (Macrae, Galatz, 1122/21).

LAULISSA. Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz, 1122/21).

DELOS. Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz, 1122/21).

KULMERLAND
ADMIRAL
SCHEER

By 0144/10. Now confirmed KULMERLAND sailed, date uncertain. ARNHILDER RESBERGEN returned to mooring about 11/10. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0432/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.X. 79.
CLINTONIA
(S.C.7.)

Not met H X 79. Have developed defect in steering engine which may become serious, intend therefore returning to Londonderry for examination of steering engine. Expect to arrive Lough Foyle 1430. Have 20 survivors on board from CLINTONIA (S.C.7.) (SHIKARI, 0705/21).

CLINTONIA, British, 5196 tons, in S.C.7, believed torpedoed and sunk, 19/10. 20 survivors picked up and 22 others landed at Londonderry 21/10. (D.S. 413).

STANGRANT
(torpedoed 13/10).

Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 413).

NORA
(torpedoed 13/10).

Estonian, 1186 tons, sailing independently, Sydney N.S. to Belfast, reported to have been torpedoed 0839/13 in 57.02 N., 13.11 W. (D.S. 413).

S.C.7.

SALVONIA reports her position is 56.40 N., 09.55 W. Now has 84 survivors on board, at 0900/21. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1114/21).

CUBANO
SULACO
(O.B. 228).

Rescued 31 from Norwegian CUBANO 1 from British Merchant Ship SULACO both torpedoed 2325/19 057° (? 25' ?55') 023° 00'. My position course and speed are 056° 58' N., 023° 57' W., 072 degs., 15'. (SAGUENAY, 1158/21, to C.in C. W.A.).

LEVERSHANNON
(torpedoed 21/9.)

Boat found by Icelandic Trawler GYLFI 1300/18 in 58° 25' N. 7° 30' W., empty and overturned. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1540/21).

Submarines Reported.

Homeward bound U-boats may be expected to arrive Bergen within next few days. Cancel my 1863/12. Proceed coastwise to patrol off Fejeosen. (F.O.(S), 0004/21, to SEAWOLF).

1104.

D.F. 56.45 N., 15° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1212/21 amended 1346/21).

2125.

Indications that you may have been sighted by submarine. (C.in C. W.A. to ANTELOPE, GLEANER, HAVELOCK, SKEENA, 2125/21).

1421.

58.30 to 59.30 N; W. of 20° W. position indefinite (D.S. 413).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. .....

MOST SECRET.

21.10.45.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - No news
German - 1 in about 49 degrees 30' N. 10 degrees 30' W. at 1006/21 proceeding to Lorient.

1 West and 1 S.W. of Ireland proceeding to Lorient.
1 was in about 55° 40' N. 18° W. at 1543/20.
1 was in about 57° N. 15° W. at 1104/21.
1 was in about 57° 30' to 58° N. 18° to 20° W. at 1030/20.
1 possibly in about 59° N. and W. of 25° W.
1 possibly in about 53° N. and W. of 25° W.
Possibly 1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1517/21).

Italian
LAVOLE

Sunk by GALLANT and HOTSPUR, 1645/20. (See North Atlantic).

Assessment of U/B Attacks.

My 2026/14 para. 5, request reports may be made in the following form:-

(a) Serial Number. (b) Time and date of attack. (c) H.M. Ships or aircraft taking part. (d) Position. (e) Assessment. (f) Remarks.

2. The following assessments are in use at Admiralty for attacks on German U-boats. Request yours may conform as far as practicable:-

A. Known Sunk. B. Probably Sunk. C. Probably Damaged (A). D. Probably Damaged (B). E. Probably Slightly damaged. F. Insufficient evidence of damage. G. No damage. H. Insufficient evidence of presence of U-Boat. I. Non-Sub.

Attacks assessed "C" are those promising attacks which are believed seriously to have damaged the U-Boat, and which may have proved fatal, but on which assessment "B" or "A" has been with-held pending receipt of intelligence indicating that the attack was probably successful. Assessment "D" indicates that U-Boat was probably seriously damaged and had to return to her base.
(D. A/S.W. 1727/21 to C.in C. Med.).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat Campaign. MALCOLM, WILD SWAN, WIVERN and VETERAN are to be sailed as soon as possible to Liverpool for escort duties in the N.W. Approaches.

ARGUS with aircraft, HURRICANE, BEAGLE and ACHATES sailed from Iceland early this morning for the Clyde.

MARGAREE sunk. Canadian destroyer MARGAREE is believed to have been sunk in collision with S.S. PORT FAIRY in Convoy O.L.8, 460 miles west of Slyne Head, at 0230 today.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command. Operations of Bomber Command last night were hampered by the weather conditions.
BISMARCK and perhaps PRINZ EUGEN, and Docks at Hamburg were attacked. A single aircraft attacked Borkum Seaplane base.
The only sortie undertaken during the day attacked a cargo ship 3 miles north of Hook of Holland, scoring a direct hit.

Coastal Command. 3 Coastal Command aircraft bombed Boulogne last night in a thick mist.
A Blenheim dropped bombs today on Lorient No.1. Power Station.
Seven destroyers were seen in Brest at 1255.

Enemy Air Activity.

Four light H.E. bombs fell in the harbour at Dover at 1245, without causing any damage.

4 minesweepers were attacked by enemy aircraft off Dover p.m. today, but were undamaged.

Convoy F.S.15 was bombed unsuccessfully in the Thames Approaches this evening.

Minings.

Operation H.3.42. TEVIOTBANK and PLOVER with? ICARUS and IMPULSIVE laid mines last night in the East Coast Mine Barrier.

M/S Trawler JOSEPH BUTTON was sunk at 0900 today off Aldeburgh, presumably by a mine.
M/S Trawler HICKORY was sunk by a mine at 1235, South of Portland.

Liverpool was closed at 0305 owing to mines laid by enemy aircraft.

/ Falmouth .....

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Continued).

Falmouth was opened at 0245 today, a searched channel having been cleared.

The Swedish S.S. SOLSTAD is reported to have been mined in the southern Baltic.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated off the East coast last night.

C.in C. Nore has asked for more fast minesweepers to be allocated to the Nore Command. Mining of the searched channels by E.boats is frequent and losses due to acoustic mines have made the sweeping situation more difficult.

Operations against Vichy French.

The French Admiralty state that it has been arranged that four French ships SAN FRANCISCO, OREGON, WINNIPEG and WYOMING shall sail from the U.S.A. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France.

Mediterranean.

Damage was done early this morning to an aircraft factory and to 5 grounded aircraft at Aboukir in an attack by enemy aircraft.

East Indies.

KIMBERLEY, in tow of KINGSTON, arrived at Port Sudan this evening.

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 0200/22. (D.C.0201/22).
At 1400/22. (D.C.1416/22).

Nore Command. Air reconnaissance unsatisfactory. Steam to be kept at half an hours notice till 0900/22. (C.in C. Nore 0507/22 to AURORA, etc.)

Policy.

Sweeping Requirements in Nore Command. Request consideration to allocation of more fast minesweepers to the Nore Command. Owing to the proximity of enemy ports, mining of the Searched Channels by E Boats is frequent and is possible on any fine night. When this occurs the Sweepers at present available are employed in sweeping the Convoys through the danger area. These Convoys amount to half a million tons weekly and even a temporary stoppage would be a serious matter. The employment of available fast Sweepers with Convoys entails delay in defining and clearing the mined areas and until this is done there is difficulty in moving Warships and operating patrol vessels. Losses due to acoustic mines have made the sweeping situation more difficult. (C.in C. Nore 1520/22. to Adty).

Movements.

Portsmouth. Movements for night 22/23. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/22).

Orkneys. Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S.1531/22 and 1814/22).

MALCOLM
WILD SWAN
WIVERN
WETERAN. To be sailed as soon as possible to join C.in C. W.A. for Escort Duties in N.W. Approaches. Capt: D.16 and Staff should remain at Harwich. (A.C.N.S. H. 1535/22 to C.in C. Nore) Request you sail ships for Liverpool p.m/23. (C.in C. Nore 1738/22 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Northern Patrol. Trawler Line today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/22).

Western Channel. Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1617/22).

Northern Escort Force. Intend to transfer ships of N.E.F. to Liverpool sloop and Corvette Divisions as follows. (C.in C. W.A. 1640/22 to C.in C. Rosyth, and 1644/22 to Capt: D. Liverpool).

Rosyth Area. Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1826/22).

SKEENA. Have remained near Commodore Noon R/V 53° 38'N., 17° 5'W since 1230/22. No ships sighted. Now proceeding to R/V with ANTELOPE. (SKEENA 1846/22 to HAVELOCK).

HAVELOCK. My position 53° 50'N., 16° W. course 080°, speed 8 knots. Only HESPERUS in company. No ships of Convoy sighted in R/V at noon today. (HAVELOCK 2000/22 to C.in C. W.A)

11th M/S Flotilla. Available ships of the 11th M/S Flotilla are to be sailed forthwith at moderate despatch for Milford Haven. (A.C.N.S. H 2302/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

Operation D.N.~~4~~. My 1434/26/9 NAIAD and BONAVENTURE leave Rosyth a.m/23, crossing 1° E., at 1800/23 outward and 2° E., by 0730/24 homeward. (V.A.S.1028/22 to S/M's Area A).

Force E. Capt: D.6 in SOMALI, MATABELE, PUNJABI. Sullom Voe p.m/23. Return to Scapa on completion. If on first night conditions unsuitable, or if nothing sighted and Force considered undetected, Capt: D.6 may repeat operation 24 hours later, retiring to Westward to 1° W. in interval. Capt: D.6 should report when operation either complete or finally abandoned. (F.O.B.C.S.1218/22 to Capt: D.6)

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force E. (Contd.) Ships of 6th D.F. will operate near Statlandet during night 23/24. They leave Sullom Voe to pass through 62° N., 0° E., at 1900/23 and withdraw to cross 1° E., by sunrise 24th.
(V.A.S.1046/22 to S/M's Area A).

Iceland. Intend sail ARGUS, ACHATES, HURRICANE, BEAGLE at 0400/23 for Clyde. Route (F.O.Iceland 1505/22 to F.O.C.N.P).
Expected time of arrival Clyde 1100/23. Intend fly off 9 Walrus aircraft in 3 flights beginning 0800/25 for Donibristle.
(ARGUS 1059/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Force E. Patrol to East of Shetlands. Enemy has shown marked interest in Shetlands today. Force E is to patrol to eastward of Shetland in longitude 000° 30' west tonight. Leave the latitude to arrive at daylight to patrol between Muckle Flugga and Port Arthur 061° 15' north 000° 00' west to search for homeward bound U/Boats. Aircraft from Hatston and Sullom Voe will co-operate from daylight 23rd October. Patrol is to be abandoned in time to carry out operation at D.N.U. as previously ordered.
(F.O.C. I.B.C.S. 1929/22 to Capt: D.6)

Dover Shelled. Between 0752 and 0903 today, 2 shells fell in Dover and 2 in sea outside Harbour. 6 civilians slightly injured. No Naval damage or casualties.
(V.A. Dover 2108/22 to Admty).

SUNFISH. STURGEON. Submarines.
SUNFISH and STURGEON will be ready to leave for patrol about 26th and 29th Oct: respectively. Propose SUNFISH carries out patrol off Muckle Flugga and STURGEON off approaches to Bergen. Alternatively SUNFISH could go to Skaggeraak.
(V.A.S. 1026/22 to C.in C. H.F.)

O.23. Reports A/S Trawler Patrol off Fejeosen and northward to Holmengraa.
(V.A.S.1029/22 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/23. (V.A.S.1714/22 and V.A.S. Recd.1759/22).
L.27.	Report on D.4. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/22 to Adty).

British Air Activity.

Patrol S.A2N.	Cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0922/22 to C.in C. H.F.)
S.A.2 and S.A.3	Cancelled tonight owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1310/22 to Adty).
Fighter Aircraft. Proposed variations of Markings and Colours.	H.Q.F.C. have proposed the following variations. Request your comments or approval. (Air Ministry 1442/22 to H.Q.C.C. Adty).
Havre.	Available aircraft of 53 Squadron to attack tonight shipping in Basins at Havre. (H.Q.C.C. 1505/22 to 16 Group, Detling).
Reconnaissance of Norwegian Coast.	C.in C. H.F. 1943 and 2244/21. Reconnaissance arranged between 63° 20'N and 60° 40'N, and from 59° 30'N and 20 miles S.E. of Lister. (C.in C. Rosyth 2145/22 to F.O.C. 15th C.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Shetlands.	At 1540 there were indications of Enemy Air reconnaissance over Shetlands and especially over Lerwick. (D.D.I.C. 1801/22 to A.C.O.S.)
Dover.	At 1245 four light H.E. Bombs fell in the Harbour. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 2108/22 to Adty).
Convoy F.S.15.	Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Bootby" S.W. Swin. (VEGA 1900/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Falmouth.	Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0240/22).
Liverpool.	Port Closed owing to suspected Mining by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0305 and 1030/22 to Adty).
Operation B.S.42.	Completed. (TEVIOT BANK 0345/22 to Adty).
JOSEPH BUTTON.	H.M. Minesweeper. Lost by Mine which exploded in kites in about 275° Aldeburgh 5.75 miles. 5 missing. Survivors in WILLIAM WESNEY and VIMIERA (VIMIERA 0928 and 0939/22).
HOUSTON CITY. (Mined 21/10).	British, 4935 tons. Mined aft, about 1715/21, in 225° East Caze L.V. ½ a mile. Now beached ½ mile N.E. of Red Sand Buoy. Tugs and GOLDEN EAGLE in attendance. (C.in C. Nore 1607/22 to Adty). Salvage Vessel KING LEAR to leave Sheerness immediately and go to help of HOUSTON CITY (Commodore Sheerness 1535/22 to KING LEAR)
WAVEFLOWER. (sunk 21/10).	Sunk, presumably by mine, at 2359/21, West of Z in QZS.155. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1211/22 to Adty).
S.N.10.A.	Propose to sail with 1st M.L. Squadron ADVENTURE, and 4 Town-class Destroyers at 1600/29 and lay p.m/31 between 3 following positions. (R.A.M.L. 1225/22 to Adty).
HICKORY.	Mined and sunk at 1235 in 50° 26' 24" N., 2° 45' 48" W. 10 survivors, one seriously wounded. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1655/22 to Adty).
QZS.220.	A further 3 mines cut p.m/22. (V.A.Dover 1751/22 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

SOLSTAD. — Swedish (?1408 tons) reported mined in Southern Baltic. Swedish W/T states all crew saved. (Air Ministry D.S.460). Adty. Message 2302/22. Request you will arrange for clearance of minefield betweer Coningbeg Light Vessel and 18 Q.Z.F. with 11th M.S.F. At least two other ships as Danlayers will be required. Suggested that Tree Class Trawlers would be most suitable. Two other vessels will be necessary for mine sinking.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2321/22 to C.in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units. — Positions on 21/10.
(D.D.I.C. 1159/22 to A.I.G.)

Suspicious Steamer. — Skipper Trawler DERESKE reports at midnight 19/10/40 when in position 16 miles E by N of Minehead Seeing TRANMORE BAY in 17 fathoms water. Steamer resembles a single funnelled white painted mail boat with 2 masts. Steamer had one small light forward and aft and moved about suspiciously till lost in fog Grade A.1.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1240/22 to Adty).

Cherbourg. — Shipping in Harbour on 22/10.
(P.R.U. St.Eval 2115/22).

Rame Head. — There is indication of unknown ship 5 to 10 miles to S. of Rame Head. Investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 2129 to KELVIN, JACKAL).

Brest. — 6 Destroyers seen, all alongside quays.
(P.R.U. St. Eval 2215/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

DEFECTS AND CASUALTIES.

MARGAREE. — Believed sunk in collision with S.S. PORT FAIRY in Convoy OL8., 450 miles West of Slyne Head at 0230/22. (Daily operations report). Was Destroyer sunk. Request you signal names of survivors. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/22 to PORT FAIRY).

CAIRNGLEN. — British, 5019 tons. Aground off Souter Point. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0743/22 to Adty).

MARITIMA. — British, 5804 tons. From Glasgow. Due Durban 17/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town. 0955.B/22 to Adty).

JOTUNFJELL. — Norwegian Tanker, 8264 Tons. From Basra. Due Durban 18/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0955.B/22 to Adty).

GRANBY. — My0100/21. Not yet refloated. Second attempt on 28/10 should succeed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1047/22 to Adty).

FAME.
ASHANTI. — Visited yesterday by R.A.D. Prospect of salving ASHANTI quite good if weather reasonably good till spring tides. FAME a doubtful proposition and will take longer. Suggest Chief Salvage Officer, Scapa, take charge as whole time job. C.in C. Rosyth and A.C.O.S. concur. (C.in C. H.F. 1731/22 to Adty).

CHELSEA. — Delayed by a new defect. Amended time of sailing 0800/23. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1943/22 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

BIBURY. — Sailed Milford Haven 28/8, due Buenos Aires 1/10, may have been sunk by raider about 9/9 south of Cape de Verde. (D.D.I.C. 1647/22).

MOST SECRET.

22nd October, 1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys	Shipping.
Reykjavik.	HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER to escort convoy to REYKJAVIK. (C.in C. W.A. 1249/22).
S.C.8.	HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER to meet at 0800/26, position. (C.in C. W.A. 1249/22).
O.B. 223 / O.B. 234	A/S trawlers detailed for (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1740/22).
H.X. 80.	Position. Escorts (HASTINGS, PHILANTE, FLEUR DE LIS, WANDERER, CASTLETON, PICOTEE) leave O.A. and O.B. 231 in time to meet H.X. 80 at 0800/23. (C.in C. W.A. 1733/22).
O.A. 233.	12 ships. Escort ABERDEEN, GARDENIA (N.C.S.O. Methil 0640/22).
F.N. 17.	Escort LOWESTOFT and WOLSEY. (C.in C. Nore 1250/22).
F.N. 18.	Escort VEGA and VIMIERA (C.in C. Nore 1250/22).
O.B. 232.	Sailed 1342/21, 12 ships, escort ENCHANTRESS, SABRE, (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1410/21)
ANADARA	Damaged tanker. Intend sailing for Falmouth 0930/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1545/22.
POLLY M.	Coaster. Intend sailing for Falmouth 0930/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1545/22).
COMORIN	When ready, to be sailed for Halifax, best available A/S and air protection being arranged. (D.O.D. (H) 1842/22).

Operations Against Vichy French.

DELHI to support Landing.

Following from Rotherham. French ship DULOC not available. HOUDUCE required for Corisco landing. Aircraft will be available.
De Gaulle urgently requests DELHI enter with Free French Forces. DELHI has seen pilot and considers entry navigationally safe. After discussion with De Gaulle. DELHI concurs it is essential he should enter to encourage French determination and ensure success of entry and subsequent landing. If you concur, request:
(a) DELHI may remain at Duala to plan operation and sail with convoy, (b) intend suggesting that Governor who commands Free French and Major Spears sail in DELHI.
De Gaulle agrees that Free French ships approach place under your orders with DELHI acting divisional commander of inshore group while in action.
(DELHI, 0136/22 to F.O.I/S.My 0136/22. .....

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued).

My 0136/22. Plan depends on your decision regarding DELHI's conduct. No details worked out. Amateur seamen on French side. Danger of fiasco if lack of planning and common doctrine. (DELHI, 0138/22 to F.O.I.C.S.)
Reporting above to Admty., and suggesting DELHI remains at Manoka to supervise naval planning and escorts for convoy. (DELHI, 1330/22).
My 0145/19. De Gaulle now most urgently requests that DELHI should enter concurrently with Free French Force, alternative being abandonment of operation. I Intend to agree DELHI running paravanes.
(F.O.I.C.S. 0041/22, to Admty.)

C.S.1. to Control. — Wish you to assume full responsibility for planning and conduct of operation locally. Desirable to keep Libreville out of bad hands, but cannot risk a fiasco. (D.O.D.(F) to C.S.1, 1856/22).

DELHI DEVONSHIRE. — DELHI to return to (? Point Noire Bay). DEVONSHIRE will arrive 0900. Rotherham to meet on arrival. (C.S.1 to DELHI, 2145/22).

Exchange of French Captives. — Following from French Admiralty (begins) As British Government has authorised the immediate return to France of several members of French Mission detained in England, French Admiralty has agreed that an equivalent number of British Subjects against whom special measures of mild reprisal have had to be taken may be given same facilties (ends).
Is there anything this Embassy can do to implement the above? There are still many British soldiers in unoccupied France.
(N.A. Madrid, 1029/22).

Ships for Repatriation of French naval ratings. — French Adty. state it has been arranged that four French ships are to sail from U.S.A. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France. Request that New York representative of Min. of Shipping and H.M. Ambassador Washington may be advised as follows
SS MICHIGAN will not sail but will be replaced by SS SAN FRANCISCO. Authority has now been given for her departure and for that of SS OREGON, WINNIPEG, and WYOMING.
(N.A. Madrid, 1209/22).

Air and S/M crews. — Three R.A.F. Airmen from plane shot down off Casablanca, who are now held in Morocco should, if possible, be included in the arrangements for the exchange of crew of French Submarine sunk at Dakar. (Head of M. 1337/22 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ Intelligence .....

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued).

Intelligence. Differences between Germand and Italians re French units at Toulon and in North Africa. French N.A. message in writing from French Admty. that Britain had nothing to fear from French warships so long as we did not attack them or threaten French coasts. (N.A. Madrid, 1115/22).

PRIMAUGUET. French N.A. tells me PRIMAUGUET has not left Casablanca since 1/10. (N.A. Madrid 1140/22).

INDOCHINOIS. Requesting whether had any troops on board, etc. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A., 1857/22). Preliminary report on INDOCHINOIS (my 1659/19). Arrived Dakar 11/10 and discharged cargo. Sailed for Konakri 15/10, arriving 17/10, disembarked at Konakri 950 black troops (reported demobilised), sailing same day for Port Bouet. Has now onboard 30 tons general cargo, mainly foodstuffs. 228 demobilised unarmed black troops for repatriation to home in Ivory Coast, 1 demobilised French officer in charge. Other passengers. No arms. Master and crew show little anti-British feeling. Proposals for disposing of troops and passengers. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty., 2017 H/22, corrected 0625/23).

North Atlantic.

Lisbon Patrol. Gibraltar departures 0820/22. M.L. 126 escorted by KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE to operate off Lisbon. (S.O.I., Gib., 1006/22).

South Atlantic.

S.W.2. CARTHAGE escorting Convoy S.W.2 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0539/22).

Overdue Ships. MARITIMA due Durban 17/10 from Glasgow JOTUNFJEL due Durban 18/10 from Basra, both not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0955 B/22).

Raider Report. S.S. DEFOE now at Buenos Aires reports having heard NATIA calling Q Q Q 8/10, Position 000° 50' N. 032° 24' W. (C.in C. S.A. 1706/22).

Lagos, Use of. If use of Dakar in future is unlikely, suggest possibility of making greater use of repair and docking facilities at Lagos be examined. Observations. (C.in C. S.A. 1931/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Uniform" — Requesting M.T. ships, as they will be formed in line with warships, be provided with signal ratings and equipment (details). (S.O. Force H, to Admty., 1730/22).

Greece. — Rome report that invasion of Greece to begin 25/10. Stated Russia promised the Dardanelles in return of accession to Axis. (Minister, Washington, 1739/22 to F.O.)

Alexandria Raid. — Operational Summary 134 to 1200/22. 0330-0530, estimated about 9 enemy aircraft in 5 groups bombed Alexandria area. 4 bombs fell on 103 M.U. Abouklr, severely damaging airscrews shop and 1 Valencia, slight damage to other aircraft. 1 airman slightly wounded. Bombers carefully avoided A/A barrage over harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1236/22) About 12 aircraft, 20 bombs. (R.A. Alexandria 1040/22).

GNAT. — Your 0748/C. GNAT to proceed Mediterranean as soon as ready. Minesweeping gear should be sent. (D. of P., 1855/22, to C.in C. E.I.)

Torpedo Bombing Attacks. — Your 0330/17. Description of tactis used in torpedo bombing attacks on KENT and LIVERPOOL, and in AJAX action with destroyers. (C.in C. Med. to S.O. Force H., 0925/22).

East Indies.

LLANSTEFAN CASTLE. — Left Mombasa 1155 G.M.T./22, troop transport. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1225 Z/22).

KIMBERLEY, destruction of FRANCESCO NULLO 21/10. — My 0812/21. Hopes to repair one engine at sea. Probably going to Port Sudan. (C.in C. E.I., 0336 Z/22).
My 0336/22. KIMBERLEY in tow of KINGSTON expects to arrive Port Sudan 1600 Z/22. (C.in C. E.I. 11522/22).
My 0835/21. Following from KIMBERLEY. Destroyer identified as FRANCESCO NULLO by letters NL on side. Disabled by gunfire, sunk by torpedo. KIMBERLEY hit by one 4" shell from shore battery, Harmil Island, of 3 guns, two of which were silenced. Main damage caused by splinters piercing steam pipe. None killed, 3 wounded. (C.in C. E.I. 1548/22).

R.A.F. Operational Summary 134. Three Blenheims 45 Sqdn. making offensive recco. Harmil Island located and bombed destroyer aground there, one bomb hitting stern destroyer. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1236/22).

/ WESTERNLAND .....

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

WESTERNLAND. Your 1725/21. CERES can escort from vicinity of Durban. (C.in C. E.I., to C.in C. S.A. 1216 Z/22).

B.M.2. Details of transports sailed in B.M.2 from Bombay 20/10. (S.S.T.O., Bombay 1045 Z/22).

B.N.8½. Your 0719/19. Intend U.S.S personnel to leave Bombay (date) in Convoy B.N.8½, about 11 ships. As no slow personnel ships in view for B.N.9, there will not be a B.N.9 Convoy from Bombay. Request sail any store ships for B.N.9 to catch convoy at Aden. Ships of 13 knots or over waiting at Aden for B.N.9 should join B.N.8½. (C.in C. E.I., to F.O.C.N.I.N., 0914 Z/22).

A.P.3. Arrived Suez a.m./22. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1752/22).

China.

Dominions and Japan. Asking for information re return of Dominion Forces in event of war with Japan. (C.in C. China to Admty., 0759 Z/22).

CRICKET TARANTULA Your 0447/C. To be sailed when ready for Mediterranean and East Indies respectively. (D. of P. to C.in C. China. 1959/22).

Air Strength. Commenting on signals A.752 of 15/10 from A.O.C. and 554 from C.in C. China, re figure of strength in aircraft and conversations with N.N.I. representatives. (Air Ministry 1158/22 to H.Q., Far East).

Shipping, Japan. Cancel my 0445/6, 0449/6 and 0523/7. Policy to be adopted by British and Allied shipping in Area 4 (a) under present conditions, (b) if war with Japan appears probable, (c) if war with Japan appears inevitable. (C.in C. China, 0813 Z/22).

Use of Gas by Japan. In view of widespread use by Japan, we should be in a position to retaliate should gas be used against Malaya. Proposals. (O.O.C. Malaya to W.O. 1852/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

COMORIN.	To be sailed for Halifax when ready. (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. Rosyth, 1842/22).
Bermuda. Contraband Control.	In view of calling at Bermuda of Japanese ships for examination, propose Bermuda be made a minor contraband control base. Governor concurs. (C.in C. A. W.I.,1231/22).
Navigation Lights, Shipping.	Admty. 1201/16. Request confirmation that instruction should apply to Allied ships. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 0850/22).
BRADFORD.	Your 1402/22 to R.A. 3 B.S. only. Both aircraft returned without sighting BRADFORD after searching track 75 miles wide from St. John's N.F. to depth of 240 miles. You should proceed N. Eastward during the night turning to continue search at daylight and thence returning to Halifax. BRADFORD may have no engine room defects and be following remaining destroyer. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1721/22, to MONTCLARE)
Patrol to Intercept HELGOLAND.	My 1441 re patrol of approaches to Colombia to capture German ship HELGOLAND. Close Puerto Colombia during daylight hours 23/10 in order to ensure being sighted but keep outside territorial waters. Leave patrol after dark October 23rd and proceed Curacao. (C.in C. A.W.I.) 1302/2 to VAN KINSBERGEN).

Australia.

Suspicious Vessel.	My 0847 Z/21. On present information, probably no hostile vessel was sighted. (A.C.N.B., 0204/22).
U.S.G.	PERTH escorting U.S.G (QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA) left R.V. in Bass Strait 21/10 for Fremantle. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne, 0220 Z/22). Route and details. (A.C.N.B. 0310 Z/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER KULMERLAND.

Your 1635/21 states ANNELIESE ESSBERGER has crew seven ships on board including that of s.s. BIBURY. BIBURY sailed Milford Haven 26/8 due Buenos Ayres 1/10 she may have been sunk by raider about 9/9.
ANNALIESE ESSBERGER is believed to have sailed from Kobe 10/10 in company with KULMERLAND. They may be prison and supply ships but it is unlikely that either has crew of BIBURY on board. Request further details as to reliability of source your information. (D.D.I.C. 1647/22.).

GERMANIA.

Indications preparing to leave in near future. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1245/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TODARO — Teneriffe report states appears to be preparing to sail from territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A. 1233/22).

Unnamed vessel. — Italian Merchant Vessel name unknown left Genoa 0700/21 for Barcelona. May change flag en route. Time of passage expected four to five days. Cargo includes aeroplane parts. Source Italian via Polish Legation which assesses source very highly indeed. My grading B three.
(N.A. Madrid 2022/22).

MOST SECRET.

22nd.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Night Attacks.

Recent reports indicate that night attacks may be made on convoys by two or more U boats acting in cooperation, first attack being designed to draw off escort. Subsequent attacks being carried out on surface from short range, probably from inside convoy.
(C.in C. W.A., 1835/22).

KABALO, (sunk 15/10)

My 1803/17. This loss is now known to be due to Italian U/B. (D.D.I.C.1844/22).

Portuguese naval authorities report that Italian Submarine who sank Belgian steamer KABALO 15/10 300 miles south west of Azores picked up one boat's crew on 17/10 transferring them afterwards to fishing vessel near Azores 20/10, (2 dead). Other boat saved by Belgian steamer PANAMA. (N.A. Lisbon, 1525/22).

SHIRAK (torpedoed, 19/10).

British, 6023 tons. Torpedoed 2245/19, 57° N., 18.35 W. Ship on fire, books in safe, vessel not seen to sink. Struck by one torpedo on starboard side. Neither submarine nor torpedo seen. Crew landed Belfast today in BLACKFLY. No casualties or missing. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1805/22).

Submarines Reported.

1242. D.F. U/B may be about 100 miles N.W. by N. of Cape Wrath probably homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1325/22'.

0930) 1115) Submarine sighted 0830 G.M.T./22 in 38.04 N., 25.45 W. and at 1015 G.M.T. in 38.04 N., 26.02 W., steering N. Grading A.1, authority Captain of Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1239/22) (F.O.C.N.A., 2220/22 to ALCANTARA).

1652. D.F., probably 2 U-boats 47° to 48° N., 6° 30' to 8° W. (V.A.S., 1742/22).

1416. 54.30 to 55.30 N., 15° - 17° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

1525. 59° to 60° N., W. of 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

2116. About 120' S.W. of Fastnet, position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

2226. About 90' S.E. of Fastnet, position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

1910. 47° to 48° N., about 8° W., position indefinite (D.S. 414).

1115. 38.04 N., 26.02 W., course N., probably Italian U/B. (D.S. 414).

/Estimated U/B dispositions ...

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - No news.
German - Situation obscure; probabilities are:-
1 or possibly 2 due Lorient to-night.
2 due Lorient to-morrow night.
1 or possibly 2 S.W. of W. of Ireland bound northwards.
As regards further north:-
1 may be in about 59 degs. N. and W. of 20 degs. W.
1 may be some 60 degs. S.W. of Rockall.
3 more in N.W. Approaches or further W. whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1236/22.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Owing to adverse weather conditions all operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled or postponed.

Ships at Ostend and 3 motor vessels, possibly E-Boats, 10 miles off Walcheren were attacked today. Results were not observed.

Coastal Command

Four Blenheims successfully attacked Lorient last night.

Today, two Beauforts on offensive patrol attacked a westbound convoy consisting of 9 merchant vessels and 3 escort vessels, 5 miles North of Schiermonnikoog.
Each aircraft released a torpedo. One vessel of 4000 tons and another of 2000 tons were hit. One was seen to be down by the stern, whilst the decks of the other were awash.

Special reconnaissances were made of the Norwegian Coast between Lister and Trondheim Fiord this afternoon. 2 merchant vessels of 10000 tons were sighted leaving Bergen in a north westerly direction, and 3 smaller merchant ships were seen near Lister.

Enemy Air Activity

Shetlands and Scapa see Home Commands, Force E.

Aberdeen trawler H E STROUD was unsuccessfully bombed this evening in the approaches to Aberdeen.

SS EMPIRE ABILITY was damaged by a near miss p.m. today whilst lying atGareloch, Clyde.

SS CRAIGANARRAN was attacked and slightly damaged 23 miles South of Kinsale.

MOST SECRET

23.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Plymouth was closed from 0106 to 1058 today on account of suspected magnetic mining. 3 mines were cut off Dover yesterday.

Mines were found today off Hartlepool and Milford Haven.

East Indies

There was an air raid on Port Sudan this morning, but no material damage was done.

3 Blenheims today attacked the main quays and destroyer base at Massawa, and listening posts at Mersa Taclai and Mersa Deresa.

MOST SECRET

23.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signal — At 1400/23. (D.C. 1417/23)

Nore Command Notice for Steam — Air R/C cancelled owing to fog. Steam to be kept at short notice until 0900/23. (C. in C., Nore, 0509/23 to F.O.I.C., Humber, etc.,)

Starting today available cruisers, destroyers, corvettes, and fleet minesweepers in harbour are to be at the following notice for steam:-
From 0830 to 2000 2½ hours
From 2000 to 0830 ½ hour
Duty destroyers by day are to be half an hour's notice as follows:-
Humber one, Harwich one, Sheerness two.
Cancel my 1035/12/9. (C. in C., Nore, 1119/23 to Command)

Policy

Western Command Telephone — Request direct telephone communication with new Sub-Area H.Q. at Port Merion. Western Command concur. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1137/23 to Adty.)

Faroes. Examination Trawlers — My 0218/31/8. All ships passing Skopen or Hesto Fiords should be examined. To enable this to be done, request you maintain a total of 3 instead of 2 A/S Trawlers in the Faroes. (A.C.N.S. H. 1152/23 to A.C.O.S)

Movements

COMORIN — Adty. 1842/22. Will be ready to leave Tyne 29/10. Request H.F. Destroyer Escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1241/23 to C. in C., H.F)

Portsmouth — Movements for night 23/24. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1403/23)

NIGERIA / NEWCASTLE — Your 1002/23. Approved for NIGERIA to relieve NEWCASTLE at Plymouth. Request you arrange with C. in C., W.A. and signal proposed date of exchange. (A.C.N.S. H. 1604/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

/GLASGOW.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

GLASGOW
BERWICK

Following additional ammunition to be embarked before sailing, but sailing not to be delayed by this. (A.C.N.S. H. 1614/23 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Escort Group Allocations

My 2101/12 and 1457/14. Following Destroyers, Corvettes and A/S Trawlers are to be allocated to Escort Groups as follows (C. in C., W.A., 1721/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

Operations

Iceland

Sailed ARGUS, HURRICANE, BEAGLE, ACHATES in accordance with my 1504/22. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0415/23 to Adty.)

Force E.

My 1218/22. C. in C., H.F. 2244/21 passed to Force E before sailing. Position of SEAWOLF and Submarine (F.O.C. I. B.C.S. 1041/23 to Force E.)

Norwegian Coast Operation

Adty's 1157/23. (See Enemy Intelligence) Proceed in two Groups.
Group 1, consisting of ARETHUSA, NORFOLK, and SOUTHAMPTON, to proceed towards Stadlandet. Group 2, consisting of Battle Cruisers, DIDO, PHOEBE, and all available Destroyers to proceed towards Obrestad. (C. in C., H.F., 1249/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S

C.S. 15 projected movements are: 58° 17' N., 1° E at 1800/23, 58° 40' N., 3° E., close Norwegian Coast in latitude Egars, and withdrew through B to 57° 40' N., 0° 55' E., at 0845/24 (C. in C., H.F., 1347/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1217/22. Withdrawal course is to be along latitude 62° 10' N., F.O.C. 2nd C.S. on reaching 62° N., is to turn to 265° if no further information of enemy available. (C. in C., H.F. 1419 and 1638/23 to Capt. D. 6.)

/My 1249.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian Coast Operation, Contd.

My 1249. Group 2 is to keep North of 58° 50' N., and, if no enemy information available, is to withdraw to westward along that latitude at 0200/24 or when reaching 4° E. whichever is the earlier. (C. in C., H.F. 1427/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

If no further information received by 1000/24 D. 6. act in accordance with B.C'1's 1217/22 and remainder return to their bases. (C. in C., H.F., 2331/23 to B.C.1)

Dover Patrol

Cancelled owing to thick weather. Return to harbour. (C. in C., Nore, 1651/23 to WALPOLE, VESPER)

Submarines

PORPOISE

To leave patrol after dark 24/10. R.V. with SURPRISE. Orders. (Capt S. 2. 0946/23)

TUNA

Route (Capt. S.2. 0951/23)

UNIQUE

Escorted by Trawler HAARLEM from Campbeltown to Lizard. Arrangements (S.2. 0953/23 and 0511/24)

SEAWOLF

To leave patrol after dark 24/10 for Rosyth. Route (Capt S. 3. 1057/23) Proceed to patrol about 18 miles off Norwegian coast. (V.A.S. 1318/23)

STURGEON

To leave Rosyth p.m./26 to carry out patrol in Skagerrak.

SUNFISH

To leave Rosyth 26/10 to carry out anti-U-Boat patrol N.N.E. of Shetlands. Arrangements (V.A(S) 1101/23)

UTMOST
UPRIGHT

Subject to Adty. approval, to carry out anti U-Boat patrol up to 48 hours in (positi((V.A.S. 1244/23) Proposed patrol approved (D.O.D. (H)2116/23)

Positions & Movements

0700/24. (V.A.S. 1718/23)

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Ostend — Docks and shipping attacked on 23/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)

Mobile Balloon Barrage — A.M. 1919/19/10. Owing to increased number of ships in next C.W.Convoy it is desired to sail 7 Mobile Balloon Barrage vessels in this convoy. Request your concurrence. (D. of L.D. 1312/23 to Balloon Command)

A/S Patrol — Cancel my 1346/14 and my 1602/19. Following cross-over A/S Patrol will be flown daily by Hudson aircraft, four circuits being flown of following area. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1750/23 to Ships)

Proposed Bombing of Enemy Coastal Batteries — Request bombing of Coastal Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse from 1930 to 2100/24. during passage of Convoy C.W. through Straits of Dover. (D.O.D.(H) 2207/23 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Air Activity

Shetlands — My 1801/22. Further indications of enemy Air R/C over Shetlands Area at 0844 and 0944 today. (D.D.I.C. 1023/23)

CRAIGANARRAN — Attacked with M.G. and cannon at 1800/17 when 23 miles south of (? Kinsale) one slight casualty and slight damage to ship. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1150/23 to Adty.)

Scapa — At 1110/23 Enemy R/C Aircraft were active over Scapa. (D.D.I.C. 1216/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

SOMALI — One aircraft shadowing me. My position 61° 1 0° 30' W., (SOMALI 1249/23) Still being shadowed. Two aircraft. My position 61° 22' N., 0° 35' W., (SOMALI 1555/23)

Convoy AGENT — One aircraft shadowing me in 51° 49' N., 1° 32' E., (VEGA 1457/23)

Convoy LABEL — One aircraft shadowing Convoy. My position 57° 45' N., 0° 34' E., bearing 035° distance 27 miles. (NAIAD 1700/23)

CONAKRIAN — British, 4876 tons. Damaged by aerial Torpedo on 20/10. Dragged on shore one mile south of Bridge of Don at 2200/22. Crew landed 0500/23 by lifeboat. Towing and salvage will continue when weather permits. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1030/23 to Adty)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Plymouth — Cancel my 0106/23. Port Open. (C. in C., W.A. -1058/23)

Dover — 3 mines cut p.m./22 in Q.Z.S. 220. Sweeping continues. (V.A.Dover 1241/23)

Tyne — Military Roker Battery reports mine exploded 089° 2000 yards Roker Battery Sunderland 1401. P.W.S.S. Sunderland give position as 088° 1.5 miles P.W.S.S.Sunderlan. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1538/23)

Hartlepool — One mine exploded spntaneously 55° 2 cables approx. Heugh Lt. at 1538 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1555/23)

Harwich — Intend sweep F.S. and F.N. through swept water tomorrow with 2 Fleet Sweepers and to start proposed clearance in vicinity 54 A Buoy Friday of Saturday weather permitting. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1656/23)

148 Q.Z.S. Fleet Sweepers swept F.S. and F.N. Convoy through between 540 Buoy and sunk light vessel. 2 sweeps parted 1 mine found in sweep "HARRIER" cruising till daylight with mine still in sweep.
4 ships patrolling north of "Z" with orders to sweep "F.S". Convoy down A.M. to-morrow Thursday. (F.O.i/c Harwich 2058/23)

Operation E.S. 43 — Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Point at 0730/26. Laying will begin 2330/26. (S.O.Minelayers, Immingham 1746/23)

Milford Haven — One red magnetic mine detonated 25 yards 188° -from No 3 buoy at 1105. Mine was laid at 0625 and position was known through the watchfulness of the lookout on board French Tanker SAINTE TONGE alongside which ship it fell. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven, 1800/23)

Enemy Intelligence

Norwegian Coast Enemy Movement — There are indications that an important movement is taking place from Northern Norway to Skaggerak. Unit or Units concerned are probably in Trondhjem area this forenoon. It is possible an 8" cruiser may be involved (V.C.N.S. 1157/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

/W/T.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast Enemy Movement Contd.	W/T intelligence indicates that movement continued to the Southward. This has been passed to C.S. 2. (A.C.N.S. H. 2117/23 to C. in C., H.F.)
Bay of Biscay	At 0658 in 47° 24' N., 5° W. one M/V 2000 to 3000 tons fully illuminated. (Air Ministry 1320/23 to Adty)
Hielte Fiord	2 large M/V's proceeding M/V's proceeding to sea through Fiord in 60° 37' N., 4° 57' E in N.W.ly direction. Aircraft report. (C. in C., Rosyth 1544/23 to Ships)
Obrestad	3 M/V's about 1000 tons seen in vicinity at 1520 and 1530. Particulars. (C. in C., Rosyth 1918 and 2218/23 to C.S. 15)
North Sea	Aircraft report at 1626, 9 M/V's in 53° 34' N 6° 8' E., steering 260° at slow speed. (V.A.S. 1946/23 to S/M H. 49)
Norwegian Coast	Result of R/C. No shipping seen between 63°N and 60° 18' N., Coastal traffic 6 small M/V's between 63° N., and Trondeim. No warships sighted. (C. in C., Rosyth 2154/23 to Capt D. 6., and 2226/23 to B.C.1. etc.,)
Walcheren	At 1433, 10 miles West of Walcheren, 3 small motor vessels possible E-Boats heading east. (H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)
Ostend	At 1546, one 4000 ton M/V, 20 small craft, and several small ships at fishing wharves (H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)

MOST SECRET

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

WAR NAWAB	Your 1634/22. Owing to defects, ship unable to sail fro Southend for routeing to Portsmouth. (Commodore Sheerness 1120/23 to C. in C., Nore.)
STORSTAD	Norwegian Tanker, 8998 tons. Left Miri on 30/9 for Melbourne. Not arrived. (A.C.N.B. 1355/23 to S.O.I. Singapore)
HERO	H.M.Trawler. LADY BRASSEY sailed at 1142/23 to help HERO on South Goodwin Sands and returned at 1501 with HERO in tow. (V.A.Dover 1519/23 to Adty.)
HUNTER	First party of four survivors of HUNTER travelling as tradesmen leave Stockholm 25th due Istanbul 30th. It is hoped to evacuate a similar party every week until all 43 ratings have left Sweden. Request N. Attache Istanbul be instructed as to where these ratings shall be routed on arrival and that DRAKE be informed. (N.A.Stockholm, 2544/23 to Admty.)
LORD IRWIN	Your 1403/23. Sailing of Tug SECURITY towing LORD IRWIN postponed. Propose sailing tow at 0730/24. (F.O.I.C. 1629/23. to C. in C., Portsmouth)
MALCOLM	My 1738/22. Sailing delayed by defective D.G. (C. in C., Nore, 1658/23 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)
MARGARET	Your 2020/22. Failed to sink Destroyer. Left her on fire settling slowly to stern Survivors names. (PORT FAIRY 1154/23 to Admiral, Devonport)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

ST CLAIR
VESLEKAKI

Reference A.M. 1723/22 inpection of ST. CLAIR shows accommodation to be sufficient. VESLEKAKI not required Naval service Iceland. Undesirable this unsatisfactory crew return here. (N.O.i/c Iceland 1507/23)

Convoys

H.X. 80

No met. My position CASTLETON in company. (FLEUR DE LYS, 1200/23) Your 1200. Estimate position H.X. 80. (C. in C., W.A. 1920/23 to FLEUR DE LYS, CASTLETON)

O.B. 233

Amending 1740/22, re A/S trawlers for (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1254/23)

E.N. 11.

H.M.T's HUGH WALPOLE, SOUTHERN WAVE, (N.C.S.O Methil 1116/23) E.N. 11. returned owing to stress of weather. Cancel my 1117/23 to A.C.W.A. re. and my 1116/23 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1441/23)

S.C. 10.

Cancel my 1621/21 and substitute following route. (D.T.D. 1329/23)

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Convoys, Interception.

Your 1320/20. Spanish territorial waters must be respected. French territorial waters may be entered but no action should be taken till BARHAM has been undocked. In initial attempt at bringing in a convoy destroyers only should be used and action should only be taken if destroyers represent overwhelming strength. (1st Lord and 1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 0056/23).

DRAGON PENNLAND.

My 1051/21. DRAGON leaving Freetown for Takoradi a.m./23 to escort PENNLAND to Bathurst. BELGRAVIAN also proceeding to Takoradi to transport lorries which cannot be taken in PENNLAND and will afterwards proceed to Duala in accordance with Admty. 2109/15 when arrangements with Cameroons Govt. has been made. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty., 0131/23)

Libreville DELHI

Your 0956/22 not to C.in C. S.A. and Admiralty. Leclerc delighted and determined to succeed at all costs and intends to remain until Libreville is taken. His only concern is that expedition should not fail or turn back soon and asks for assurance that you will not withdraw naval force before completion. I have assured him on this point provided no unforeseen naval obstacle interveneo.
(DELHI, 0134/23, to F.O.I.C.S.).

Spears has sent signal direct to War Cabinet supporting French request for DELHI to enter Libreville. (DELHI, 0148/23 to C.S.I., C.in C. S.A., and Admty.)
Expect to arrive position B 1800/23 (DELHI, 0153/23).

Admty. 1856/22. It is clear that active participation of DELHI is an ingredient essential to the success of this plan and without her they will not continue.
Am remaining at Duala to examine pland and will report fully on return tomorrow.
(C.S.1, 1823 A/23, to Admty.)

Gaboon Campaign.

Progress of land operation in Gaboon 22/10. Northern Force arrived Mitjik, Southern Force bombarded Lambarene today, tanks expected to be in position tomorrow 23/10.
(DELHI, 0205/23, to F.O. 1 C.S. etc.)

French Convoys, Interception.

Your 0056/23. After interception the French Force may despatch surface and Air Forces from Oran or Casablanca depending on where interception has taken place to attempt release of Convoy before latter can reach Gibraltar.

/ To guard against ....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued)

French Convoys, Interception.

To guard against this contingency I consider the full support of Force H will be necessary.
BARHAM requires 4 days after undocking to complete outfit ammunition and provisions. Consider any action contemplated should be deferred until she is ready. In view of probable retaliation by French Air Force on Gibraltar which may well lead to actions between surface vessels intend to defer embarkation of additional ammunition in BARHAM (Admty. 1628/22) until situation is clarified.
(S.O. Force H., 1517/23 to Admty.)

French Troops for Dakar.

Three Liners MARRAKECH, SINAIA, MARECHAL LYAUTEY, arrived Dakar 20/10 with full complement of troops and ammunition. Still Dakar 21/10. Reported returning soon to Casablanca. Weekly movement of Troop-ships reported between Casablanca and Dakar. Since interception of INDOCHINOIS troops from Dakar for other parts of French West Africa reported going overland via Bamako.
(Actg. Govr., Sierra Leone, 1735/23, to Admty.)

BARHAM.

Your 1140 2/8. What was the reason for BARHAM running short of fuel? (1 S.L. to BARHAM, 1745/23).

Exchange of Prisoners, Dakar excludes Free French.

My 2001/28/9, 1133/15/10 and 2015/22/10. Following is translation of telegram received from Boisson, Governor-General Dakar. (Begins). French Government informs me that proposal for exchange of prisoners could only apply to British nationals. Grateful if you would inform me of your intentions in this matter. (Ends).
Matter was first raised with ref. to De Gaulle's (?men) only (my 2001/28/9 and my 1133/15/10). De Gaulle's (?reply to) Governor Duala's 0908/20/10 suggested settlement "without distinction for Free French and Englishmen who took part in common operations".
Consider exchange of AJAX crew should not be negotiated without Free French as well as British being returned. Presume all further semi-negotiations will be with French Admiralty direct through N.A. Madrid (vide your 2026/14) Shall I inform Boisson to this effect?
(C.in C. S.A. 1341/23).

MASSILIA.

Your 1902/21. French N.A. should be informed may sail without further delay. (Route).
Essential Admty. should be informed when vessel sails and when expected off N.Ireland.
(Head of M. to N.A. Madrid, 1243/23).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DRAGON — Left 0600/23 in accordance C.in C. S.A. 0131/23 (visit to Takoradi). (S.O.I., Freetown, 0951 N/23).

Overdue Shipping. — My 0955/22. JOTUNFJELL arrived Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0915/23).

ANTONIOS CHANDRIS — Greek stopped by enemy raider at 1945/8/9 in 11.25 N., 34.10 W. Description. Armament believed to be four 5.9" guns, 2 forward, 2 aft. (C.in C. S.A. 0235/23).

BULOLO Search for Raider. — A.C.W.A's 1651/12. Pass through F.33, search G.33, H.33, examine St. Paul's Rock, Fernando de Novonha, returning to Freetown (date). Raiders reported active in G. 33 September, H.33 October. (C.in C. S.A. to BULOLO, 1231 N/23).

CARNARVON CASTLE. — Sail CARNARVON CASTLE 24/10 to arrive Takoradi (date). CARNARVON CASTLE is to escort WESTERN BANN to Cape and possibly to vicinity of Durban. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1807 N/23).

Troop Transport. — Your 2210/18. As possibility of providing alternative ships for trooping Durban to Mombasa is under consideration, request you advise what is total carrying capacity required for this service. (D. of S.T., 2211/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

My 0853 Z/23. From enquiry in ORMONDE now in Durban, vessels identified as DAHLIA and MYRICA (ex Italian SISTIANA). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2242B/23).

Suspicious Ships. — Following from DURHAM CASTLE via Jacobs Radio. 2 steamers acting suspiciously close to me here, 29.34 S., 31.48 E. (ends). Am arranging air reconnaissance (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0853 Z/23).

Mediterranean.

Spain. — Bi-Weekly Report. Visit of Franco and Suner to Hitler. (N.A. Madrid, 2001/23).

Benghazi. — Approach routes to Benghazi now known to be A. Details. (C.in C. Med. to REGULUS and OSIRIS, 1031/23).

Invasion of Greece. — Repeating Minster Washington's 1739/42 re date of expected invasion, etc. Steps being taken to verify source. (D.N.I. to C.in C. Med. 1327/23).

Greece and Turkey. — Asking what assistance can be given locally to strengthen Greek and Turkish

/ will .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Greece and Turkey. (contd.)

will and stability to resist. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1724/23) (see Med. Volume).

Coming Operations.

Assuming Operation Uniform cancelled and White Collar deferred (date), it would apparently be your intention to put a convoy into Malta (date) in accordance you 1421/14. Would it then be possible for BARHAM to transport personnel to Malta. If so, should like to use BERWICK and GLASGOW for escorting convoys round Cape (dates of arrival Suez). (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1849/23).

East Indies.

Offensive Plans.

From O.C. Military Mission 106. On no account should Lieut.-Com. Cardelloyan commence or plan any offensive operations until after arrival of O.C. Military Mission 106. Equipment of dhows with auxiliary engines giving speed of 4 knots or over very desirable if these can be obtained or if car engines can be converted for purpose. Such engines unobtainable at home. (C.in C. S.A. 0755/23 to S.N.O. Aden).

Dhows Traffic.

C.in C. Red Sea Force 1541/22. Intend action be taken in accordance with my 0616/1 as from 0001 Z/26/10 taking action against dhows carrying cargoes Italian E. Africa. (C.in C. E.I. 0822/23).

Greek Shipping Madagascar.

Your 1058/11. No special significance attached to concentration at Lourenco Marques. Madagascar not at present treated as being under enemy control, but extension of Navicert system to Island is under consideration. At present, therefore, contraband and export control cannot be exercised and mails cannot be intercepted. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. E.I. 1933/23).

Convoys.

My 0954/8. Red Sea Convoys expected to pass Aden as follows (dates.) (C.in C. E.I. 1122/23).

Port Sudan Raid.

Two S.79's raided Port Sudan 0730 Z/23. Approx. 15 H.E. and incendiary bombs in neighbourhood of quay, no material damage, 10 natives killed, approx 20 injured. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1555 Z/23) Confirmed casualties now 22 killed, 11 wounded. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1200 Z/24).

/ Evasion of blockade. .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Evasion of blockade. There is (?definite) evidence that mails and goods including silk parachutes are being shipped to enemy countries via Persian Gulf. Request Custom and Censorship Authorities may keep a special look out for such evidence in Japanese ships and mails, and that any arising from mails be immediately reported with a view to diversion of suspected ships to British port for examination.
(C.in C. E.I. 1144 Z/23. to F.O.C. R.I.N.)

China.

Defence Conference. Wider appreciation, to cover requirements of Australian and New Zealand representatives.
(C.in C. China, 0745 Z/23, to Admty.)

Air Defence. Reply to Air Ministry 1155/22. Emphasise R.A.F. have to compete not only with Japanese Air Force but Japanese Navy. Are aware Dutch intend destroy oil supplies if unavoidable, but point out disastrous effect this might have on fuel supplies in Far East and Australia and New Zealand.
(H.Q., Far East to Air Min., 1500/23).

Shipping. Your 0317/19. Jardines intend sailing following within next few days. Question re insurance. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong to C.in C. China, 0745/23).

America and West Indies.

CAMERON Distillers in order and available for duty.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1201/23).

BUXTON. Out of quarantine from noon today.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1201/23).

Shipping Lights. Your 0850/22, re burning navigation lights. Allied authorities are being informed and will issue similar instructions. (D.T.D., 1219/23, to S.O.I., Jamaica).

French Repatriations. Following from N.A. Madrid. (Begins). French Adty. state it has arranged that four French ships are to sail from U.S. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France. Request that New York representative of Min. of Shipping and H.M. Ambassador Washington may be advised. MICHIGAN will not sail but will be replaced by SAN FRANCISCO. Authority has now been given to her departure and for that of OREGON, WINNIPEG, and WYOMING. (Ends.). Request that you will take necessary action. (Head of M. 1652/23 to N.A. Washington).

/ FORT DE FRANCE .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Continued).

FORT DE FRANCE. FORT DE FRANCE sailed for Martinique most secretly after dark 15/10. Sailing successfully concealed from all our reporting agencies. Endeavouring preclude possibility in the future. (N.C.S.O. New York, 1553/23).

Australia.

STORSTAD. Norwegian, 8998 tons. From Mivi on 30/9 to Melbourne, not arrived. (A.C.N.B. 1333/23).

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORDELIA.
ARCADIA.
ITHAKA.
SALZBURG.

Departure CORDELIA ARCADIA and ITHAKA German in ballast for Russia. Arrival of SALZBURG German from Istanbul with 2074 tons of General cargo. (Macrae, Galati 1121/23).

USARAMO

Left Vigo probably very early this morning. (Consul, Vigo, 0826/23). (D.D.I.C., 1242/23, V.A.S. 1416/23 to Submarines Area B., F.O.C.N.P., 1449/23). My 0826. USARAMO believed bound for Corunna but no confirmation yet. (Consul Vigo, 1825/23).

ACHILLES.

Completed boiler repairs and has left berth to anchor in bay. (Consul, Vigo, 1825/23).

SPEZIA.

Has signed on Spanish crew under German officers and will sail any moment. (N.A. Madrid, 0959/23) Left Valencia between sunset and 2200/22, destination probably Genoa. (S.O.I., Gib., 1431/23).

Tankers.

German tankers seen off Pasajes 15/10 and 16/10. Polish source (B.S.). N.A. Madrid, 1140/23).

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER
KULMERLAND.

Your 1635/21. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER sailed from Kobe 9/10 now confirmed she returned to her moorings 11/10. KULMERLAND sailed at the same time but has not returned. (D.D.I.C. 1313/23, to N.A. Buenos Aires).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FRANCA FASSIO.

"Popolo D'Italia" 9/10 acknowledged the sinking of an 1800 ton Italian Steamer in Western Mediterranean. This would appear to confirm the sinking of the FRANCA FASSIO early in October off Savona (see 16/10) (D.S. 415).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

FORT DE FRANCE.

See America and West Indies.

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Search and Rescue work.

My position 1300 G.M.T., 53.27 N., 23.55 W., 242°, 15. Searched 20 miles round 53.47 N., 23.01 W., only sighted one lifebuoy. (LACONIA, 1625/23).

Your 1500. Proceed to Londonderry and land survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to tug SEAMAN. 1755/23).

BILDERDIJK (HX 79))
UGANDA ")
LOCH LOMOND ")
MATHERAN ")
SANDSEND ")
JANUS. (OB. 228))

Taken over 39 survivors from BILDERDIJK, 37 from UGANDA, 40 from LOCH LOMOND, 72 from MATHERAN. HIBISCUS has 34 from SANDSEND and 33 from JANUS. (JASON to C.in C. Rosyth, 2301/23). Above survivors were landed at Methil by JASON and HIBISCUS. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1516/24).

ATHELMONARCH (HX 79).

Arrived in Mersey 23/10. (D.S. 415).

TRITON

Arrived in Clyde 23/10. (D.S. 415).
(All torpedoed 19/10).

Torpedoed in S.C.7. 18-19/10.

FISCUS

4815 tons. Survivors said to have been picked up. (D.S. 415).

SEDGEPOOL

5556 tons. Survivors said to have been picked up. (D.S. 415).

THALIA.

Greek, 5875 tons. Survivors said to have been picked up. (D.S. 415).

SHEKATIKA

Since sunk (D.S. 415).

Submarines Reported.

1105. 57° - 57.30'N., 18° - 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

0043. 47.30 to 48.30, 9° - 11° W., position indefinite (D.S. 414).
(V.A.S., 0946/23).

1139. D.F. probable U/B, 61° N., 0° 30' E.
(D.D.I.C. 1218/23.

1205. D.F. 50° to 51° N., 10° to 12° W., unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A., 1243/23).

0930. S/M sighted N. of Ponta da Bretanha, St. Michael.

1315. 0830 G.M.T./23, seen again going north at 1215 (Source A), (Lisbon, 1929/23).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions ....

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian — 1 off San Miguel Island Azores 1115/22 moving northwards.

German — 3 or possibly 4 due Lorient some tonight some tomorrow night.
1 S.W. of Ireland moving northwards.
1 W. of Ireland moving northwards.
1 reaching N.W. Approaches from the South.
1 was in about 55° N., 16° W., at 1416/22.
1 was in about 57° to 57° 30' N. 18° to 20°W. at 1105/23.
1 was in about 59° to 60° N; and W. of 20°W. at 1525/22.
Possibly 3 more in N.W. Approaches or farther W.
1 N.E. of Shetlands bound for Norway or Germany.
(D.D.I.C. 1316/23).

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operations off Norway.

Force E returned to Scapa today having sunk one vessel of 400 tons and seen nothing else except fishing boats.

Group two also returned today.

MENDIP (21st D.F.) damaged.

MENDIP was damaged by explosion of her depth charges whilst exercising in Scapa flow this forenoon.

British Air Activity.

R.A.F. last night attacked docks and shipping at Hook of Holland. One Blenheim attacked Le Havre and 2 Flushing. An attack made by 12 Wellingtons on the docks at Emden was apparently most successful.

Ostend, a convoy 6 miles off Zeebrugge and merchant vessels off Ijmuiden (the latter unsuccessful) were attacked during the day.

Air reconnaissance of the coast of Norway from Trondheim to Lister was flown at dawn today.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. BALTRADER was unsuccessfully bombed this morning about 250 miles west of Ireland.

Mining.

It is thought that enemy aircraft were probably engaged in minelaying last night in the Thames Estuary and between the Wash and Firth of Forth.

The Humber was closed at 0156 on account of aircraft minelaying, being reopened at 1125.

Liverpool was closed at 0040 on account of suspected aircraft minelaying.

Early this morning Rosyth and Approaches were closed between 2° 52' W. and dockyard but were reopened at 1247. Leith and Granton and approaches were closed. Methil is open.

The Tyne was closed owing to suspected minelaying; sweeping was not possible today on account of the weather.

Four Swordfish of Coastal Command laid mines last night off Ijmuiden.

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterrancan.

Aboukir and Port Said were attacked by enemy aircraft last night. No damage or casualties resulted.
There was an air raid on Alexandria from 0300 to 0430 today, but no naval damage occurred.

East Indies.

Two unidentified enemy aircraft attacked a convoy in Port Sudan harbour today, dropping 12 bombs but causing only negligible damage.

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 0200/24. (D.C. 0240/24) At 1400/24. (D.C. 1421/24).

More Command. Notice for Steam. My 1119/23. Ships not required for duty to-day keep steam at 4 hours notice. MANCHESTER may give night leave. Night leave may also be given as by my 1048/9 amended to read one at Sheerness. (C.in C. More 0940/24).

Policy.

Great Yarmouth D.E.M.S. Base. Closing of Base now completed as by T.D./D.E.M.S. 3510/4569, and Staff disposed of as ordered. (D.E.M.S. Yarmouth 1502/24 to D.T.D.)

BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST.ALBANS, ST.MARYS. Your 1532/17. Ships should be retained at Plymouth until you are satisfied their A/S training sufficiently advanced. Practices can be continued at Port Z.A. (D. A/S W. 1610/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

War Policy. It is intended that the Prime Minister shall hold a meeting of Chiefs of Staff and Commanders in Chief in the near future, Thursday 31st October if convenient, to discuss war policy. The agenda will probably include winter dispositions, a survey of present position and any other points which Cs. in C. wish to bring up. Request you will submit points for discussion for approval for inclusion in agenda. (1st S.L. 2052/24 to C's -in- C.)

Movements.

WIDGEON. Remain with Convoy until WOLSEY rejoins. (C.in C. More 1006/24).

BULLDOG. To be sailed for Rosyth A.M./25. (C.in C. H.F. 1017/24 to R.A.D.)

BEAGLE. After arrival of ARGUS request you sail BEAGLE for Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1035/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BEVERLEY, BELMONT, BROADWAY. ETA. Belfast 1600. (BEVERLEY 1145/24 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)

MALCOLM. My 1829/22 and your 1358/23. Request MALCOLM be sailed for Londonderry when ready. (C.in C. W.A. 1145/24 to C.in C. More.) ETA. Rosyth 0300/25. (Capt. S.3. 2001/24 to WILK).

/ More Command .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

Nore Command.	Movements to 1200/25. (C.in C. Nore 1200 and 1444/24).
Portsmouth.	Movements for Night 24/25. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1347/24).
FEARLESS.	To proceed at 1900/25 to Liverpool with moderate dispatch. (C.in C. H.F. 1441/24).
BROKE.	Request report speed 14 knots position at 1445, 53° 50' N., 12° 52' W., course 080° true. (BROKE 1445/24 to C.in C. W.A.)
GLASGOW.	Will probably be required to sail P.M./26. (C.in C. H.F. 1512/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).
Orkneys.	Trawler lines today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/24).
AGAMEMNON) COMORIN)	Request you arrange AGAMEMNON for Rosyth and COMORIN for Halifax to be sailed in company and report to C.in C. H.F. date when both ships ready to sail. (C.in C. Rosyth 1553/24 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Western Channel.	Report for Night 24/25. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/24 and 1807 and 1931/24).
SALOPIAN.	Estimated position at 1900/25 is 55° 30' N. 9° 35' W., course 085°, speed 12 knots. (SALOPIAN 1930/24 to C.in C. W.A.)
FOXHOUND.	Passes Flamborough Head 2230/24 northbound. (Capt. S.3. 2001/24 to WILK).
EXMOOR) BLENCATHRA) COTSWOLD) SOUTHDOWN)	When ready for service to be sailed to Scapa to work up. On completion BLENCATHRA to join Portsmouth Command and remainder Nore. (D.O.D. H. 2155/24 to A.S.C.B.S.)
ARK ROYAL) FEARLESS) FOXHOUND) ISIS)	1. My 0206/18. C.in C. H.F. requested to sail FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, and ISIS to arrive at Liverpool by p.m. 27th. 2. ARK ROYAL escorted by FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, and ISIS is to be sailed from Liverpool on 28/10 to Clyde. 3. Aircraft of ARK ROYAL will be flown during 29/10 after which she should return to Clyde. 4. Further signal will be made as to sailing for Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. F. 2156/24).
ACHATES) ANTELOPE)	Your 1354/17. Propose ACHATES and ANTELOPE return to your Command. ACHATES due Clyde 25/10. ANTELOPE 25 or 26/10. (C.in C. W.A. 2249/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

/ Force E. .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force H. — Returning to Scapa. Attacked one small vessel about 40^ tons in 62° 29' N. 4° (?23') E. Otherwise nothing seen but numerous Fishing-Boats.
ETA. 1700. (Capt. D.6. 0630/24 to R.A. 1st B.C.S.)

Group 2. — ETA. in HOOD, with REPULSE, DIDO PHOEBE, and 5 Destroyers, 1200/24. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0845/24 to A.C.O.S.)

Norwegian Coast Operations. — Sweeps carried out on 23rd and 24th October to the Norwegian Coast between 58° North and 62° 30' North by forces of Home Fleet including Battle cruisers and units from four cruiser squadrons resulted in only ship being sighted. This ship which was darkened and of about 400 tons was sunk in position 62° 29' North 04° 23' East by three destroyers of 8th Flotilla. Some enemy activity to and from Stavanger Aerodrome was noted. (C.in C. H.F. 2242/24 to Adty.).

ALERT. — A.L.M. 010327/40 of 3rd October and my 1142/24. G.P.O. having confirmed that this operation can be performed at night shewing shaded lights only for the actual cutting operations on deck, this course is considered preferable in view of inadequate air protection which can be afforded in daylight.
Request you arrange to carry it out during dark hours starting on the first convenient night after arrival of ALERT.
(D.O.D. H. 1143/24 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Your 1707/19. ALERT should be docked as soon as possible and then sailed in accordance with my 1757/18. She is required for an operation during the first week of November.
(D.O.D. H. 1142/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

Submarines.

SEAWOLF
O.24 — My 1312/23. O.24 resume Patrol off Korsfiord. SEAWOLF return to Rosyth as by previous orders. (V.A.S. 1040/24).

CACHALOT. — Patrol between 47° 30' N. and 46° 30' N. and 5° 45' W. and 7° W. (Capt. S.2 1509/24)

/ TALISMAN .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Continued).

TALISMAN. Leave Patrol after dark 26th. Route to within 30 miles of Ushant. Any M/V met by TALISMAN on passage South of 49° N. is to be sunk at sight. R/V with TROUBADOUR 315° Longships Light 5 miles at 0730/29. (Capt. S.2. 1511/24 to S/M's Area 2).

STURGEON. (Anti-U-Boat Patrol) V.A.S. 1101/23. Request H.F. Destroyer Escort. No Escort available from R.E.F. (C.in C. Rosyth 1525/24 to C.in C. H.F.) Escort will be provided. (C.in C. H.F. 1936/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Positions. For 24 hours at 0700/25. (V.A.S. 1714/24)

SUNFISH. My 1525/24. SLEIPNER will be available for escort for SUNFISH from May Island to Duncansby Head. S.O. is requested to sail SUNFISH independently and to report expected time of arrival off May Island as soon as possible. C.in C. H.F. is requested to arrange for onward escort for SUNFISH from Duncansby Head.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2237/24 to SLEIPNER).

British Air Activity.

Norwegian Coast. Air R/C from Trondheim to Lister being flown today at dawn. (C.in C. Rosyth 0100/24).
R/C Trondheim to Stadlandet not completed owing to clear visibility and insufficient cloud cover. (C.in C. Rosyth 1442/24 to Admty.)

Proposed bombing of Coastal Batteries. Request action on Admty's 1549/16. (Air Ministry 0040/24 to H.Q.B.C.)
Cancel my X.172/24/10. (Air Ministry 1529/24 to Bomber Command) Admty. 2207/23. Request action be taken for 25/10.
(Air Ministry 1725/24 to Bomber Command).

Seven Mobile Balloon Barrage Vessels with next C.W. Convoy. Your 1313/23. Concur. (H.Q.B.C. 1600/24 to Admty.) Re 1919/19. Balloons up to maximum eight may accompany each convoy. Number to be requested by C.in C. Nore of 30 Group, who will satisfy whenever possible. (H.Q.B.C. 1601/24 to Admty.)

ARGUS. Will embark 12 R.A.F. Hurricanes and 2 Shun A/C from Abbotsinch during stay at Clyde. (D.O.D.H. 1604/24 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Rosyth Area. Air Escorts for 25/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1648/24).

/ A/S Patrol. .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

A/S Patrol. Will be flown between Duncansby Head and Cape Wrath throughout daylight tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2200/24).

Enemy Air Activity.

BALTRADER. British, 1699 tons. Bombed in 53° 50' N. 14° 13' W. (BALTRADER 0759/24) O.K. (Valentia Radio 0831/24).

MARINE ABILITY. British, 7803 tons. Damaged by near miss last night. Holed above water. Engines being tried this morning. Ship not leaking. Second Officer dangerously wounded. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1215/24 to D.S.T., London).

H.E. STROUD. Aberdeen Trawler. Reports attacked by aircraft at 1615/23 between middle and outer Buoys in Approach Channel. 7 Bombs, none exploded. (H.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1221/24 to C.in C. Rosyth.)

F.N. Convoy. Even numbered F.N. Convoy being shadowed by one aircraft in 51° 57' N. 1° 39' E. (F.N. Convoy 1633/24).

Dogger Bank. My 2107/24. German Naval aircraft are operating in Dogger Bank area. (D.D.I.C. 2133/24).

Convoy "PEWIT" Shadowed by one aircraft 51° 17' N. 1° 30'E. (PREMIE 1647/24) Fighters have left for convoy "PEWIT" (Nore W/T 1646/24).

Minima.

Liverpool. Port closed owing to suspected Minelaying by aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0040/24 to Adty.). Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1400/24 to Adty.) Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1945/24 to Adty.)

Humber. Closed. Aircraft minelaying. (F.O.Humber 0156/24 to Adty.). Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1126/24 to Adty.)

Sailes Point. West Mersea Coastguard Post reports 10 or 12 Bomb Explosions off Sailes Point at 0410, believed in the water. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0420/24 to C.in C. Nore).

Rosyth, Leith, Granton. Owing to suspected Minelaying, the Port of Rosyth and Approaches are closed between 2° 52' W. and Dockyard. Ports of Leith and Granton and Approaches are closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 0421/24 to Adty.). Port of Rosyth is now open (C.in C. Rosyth 1247/24).

/ Leith and Granton .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

Leith and Granton open.
Navigational precautions. (C.in C. Rosyth 1829/24 to Adty.).

Methil. Port open. (C.in C. Rosyth 0421/24 to Admty.)

Milford Haven. An apparent accustic mine exploded at 0930 today Thursday by Lairds Isle in approximate position 4 cables 245 degrees from number 3 buoy Milford Haven fifty yards on port quarter. Speed of ship twelve knots. No helm being used at time of explosion. Mine apparently laid at the same time as magnetic mine reported in my 1800/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1043/24 to Adty.)

Deep Minefield in N.W. Approaches and Operation S.N.3. Your 1225/22.
1. In view of encouraging performance of experimental minefield and of the urgent need for every A/S measure possible in the North Western Approaches, it has been decided that the deep minefield in this are is to be laid first, using antenna mines, the risk of prematures being accepted.
2. Request you will amend your programme to lay lines D and B in that order.
3. Approved to carry out operation S.N.3 after your first two lays in order to clear this special material from Railway sidings. (V.C.N.S. 1132/24 to R.A.M.L.)

Tyne. Closed. Suspected Minelaying. Sweeping not possible to-day owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1142/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Clyde. Magnetic Mines reported ½ mile S.S.W. of Garroch Head. Vessels not to pass within 2 miles of Garrach Head and to keep close to Little Cumbrae Island.
(Capt. S.7 1031/24 to 7th S/M Flotilla).

Faroes. My 1203/17. A second Explosion occurred in Skopen Fiord at 1500/17. No ship sunk. The explosion cannot be explained. My 1615/18/9. I strongly urge that skimming searches be made. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1143/24 to Adty.)

Flamborough Head. One Enemy Seaplane believed laying Mines in 54° 5' N. 0° 3' E. One underwater Explosion heard. (EGRET 1858/24 to Adty.)

Plymouth. Owing to recent magnetic minelaying in approaches ships arriving Plymouth should as far as practicable rendezvous in a position 2 point 5 miles 170° from Penlee

/ Point .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (continued)

Plymouth (contd.)	Point one hour after official daylight and follow sweepers into Port. (C.in C. W.A. 1946/24).
Thames Estuary.	BALMORAL reports at 2212 that 14 Explosions probably Mines, were seen in air less than 1000 feet up at about 3 miles 160° from Mouse Light Vessel. (X.D.O. Sheerness 2330/24 to C.in C. Nore) Further details (C.in C. Nore 1607/25).
Aberdeen.	At 1800/23 a Coast Watcher and Civilian saw one aircraft drop a black object into sea one mile East of Cove Bay. No parachute observed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1221/24 to C.in C. Rosyth.

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Bergen.	One M/V 2000 tons at rest, bearing 60° 15 miles from 60° 56' N. 4° 35' E. (Aircraft of 269 Sqdn. 0907 and 0910/24).
Tramore Bay.	Your 1240/22. N.A. Dublin reports no ship like that described by DE RESZKE was sighted in Tramore Bay on night 19/10. (D.N.I. 1752/24 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
Rotterdam Flushing Ijmuiden Antwerp	R/C at 1030/24. (P.I.U. 1915/24 to N.I.D.)
Enemy small craft.	At 1940 in 54° 50' N. 3° 50' E. D/F reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2107/24).
Norwegian Coast.	Since the W/T activity yesterday, a marked reduction of activity has taken place, which appears to indicate an interruption of the movements as planned. There are slight indications that the southerly movement might be continued in the near future, but further evidence must be awaited. (D.D.I.C. 2137/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

24.10.40

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

LORD IRWIN. My 1629/23. Weather unsuitable. Sailing postponed. (P.O.I.C. Portland 0757/24 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

SCHOONKERK. My 1125/21. Arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1145 B/24 to Adty.)

MENDIP. At about 1130 an explosion occurred on stern of MENDIP near Barrel of Butter. No immediate danger. Proceeding towards Gutter Sound. C.O. suspects internal explosion. (A.C.O.S. 1156 and 1240/24 to Adty.) Probably result of accidental explosion of Depth Charge while exercising in Flow. Has been docked for temporary repairs and should be ready to proceed in about 3 days. 5 missing, 6 seriously injured. (R.A.D. 1815/24 to Adty.)

ST. MALO. See Shipping (Convoy H.X. 77).

MOST SECRET.

24.10.40

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

O.A. 234. COREOPSIS on passing join ROCHESTER escorting O.A. 234 due to leave Methil 0730/24. PRIMROSE will relieve you later (C.in C. Rosyth 0621/24 to COREOPSIS).

H.N.11. H.M.T's HUGH WALPOLE AND SOUTHERN WAVE (N.C.S.O. Methil 0945/24).

C.W.15. Convoy postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 1314/24) Adty. 2207/23 (bombing of coastal batteries while C.W.15 passes Dover) Convoy postponed 24 hours. Request similar arrangements for 25/10 (C.in C. Nore 1346/24) Will sail 115/25 weather permitting (C.in C. Nore 1654/24).

TITANIAN (in F.S.19) To be diverted to Sunderland. Tyne closed (C.in C. Rosyth 1426/24).

O.A. 232
O.B. 232
S.C.8. Arrangements for local escorts. (C.in C. W.A. 1443/24).

W.N. 25. Position. Speed (BERKSHIRE 1930/24).

B.S.43. ICARUS and IMPULSIVE are to act as escort (C.in C. Nore 2144/24).

F.N. Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne should be diverted to Sunderland (C.in C. Rosyth 2235/24).

CLARE's H.X.77 Orders for convoy owing to suspected mines (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2345/24). 23 hours late, westerly gales and heavy seas. Convoy attacked before meeting local escort and scattered. Ships sunk STANGRANT, PORT GISBORNE, BRANDANGER, PACIFIC RANGER, DAVANGER. ST. MALO lost convoy 6/10 owing to lack of speed and is not yet reported in (D.T.D. 1740/14).

Positions. Convoy secret positions for two days before reaching the rendezvous in North Western Approaches are in future to be included in Sailing Telegrams as additional paragraph 8 (A). (D.T.D. 1613/24).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

The following signals are abstracted in the Operations Volume.

1st S.L. 0100/24 to F.O.C.N.A.

S.O. Force H. 1537/24 to Admty.

F.O.C.N.A. 1550/24

Gov.-Gib. 2055/24

G.O.C. West Africa to W.O. 1745/23

D.D.I.C. 0055/24

Acrg.
Admty. Gov. Freetown 1201/24

F.O.C. 1sr C.S. 1547/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1549/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1541/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1553/14

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1555/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1557/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1559/24

F.C.S.O. 1601/24

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Interception of French Convoys.

S.O. Force H's 1517/23, my 0056/23, F.O.C.N.A.'s 1320/20. BARHAM will temporarily form part of Force H. As ordered in A.T.2327/19 you are responsible for issuing the orders for the interception of the convoys and the area and date on which it is carried out. You are to call upon S.O. Force H for such forces as you consider necessary. Whilst destroyers only are to be used for interception strength of the supporting force is at your discretion. If RENOWN forms part of the supporting force, S.O. Force H should be placed in charge of the operation. Interception of convoys cannot be deferred until after operation UNIFORM. Four days appears excessive for BARHAM to complete outfit ammunition and provisions. S.O. Force H to report earliest date BARHAM can be ready. Approved to defer embarkation of additional ammunition. (1 S.L. 0100/24 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Your 0100/24 para (g). Assuming that berthing of BARHAM after undocking completed 1800/25 exchange and completion of ammunition and provisioning should be completed by 0600/29.
(S.O. Force H 1537/24 to Adty.)

Your 0100/24. Concur with S.O. Force H's para. 1 and 2, am therefore placing him in charge of operation in concurrence with your 0100/24 para.(e).
First interception will take place in Mediterranean. Date probably 29/10 vide S.O. Force H's 1537/24 dependent on passing of convoys. (F.O.C. N.A. 1550/24).

Governor of Gibraltar's views. Suggesting action be deferred. (Gov. Gib. 2055/24).

Gaboon Operations.

Gen. de Gaulle plans certain operations against Gaboon in very near future. We have no details of military plan but co-operation of certain British naval units has been asked for. Final authority for these operations in so far as our ships concerned has not yet been given. (G.O.C. West Africa to W.O., 1745/23, received from W.O. 0820/24).

A/C Bombs, Dakar.

Repeating Gibraltar 2030/21 (re bombs transported from Casablanca to Dakar for use in operations against De Gaulle, Cameroons), to C.in C. S.A. (D.D.I.C. 0055/24).

/ Reinforcements for Dakar ...

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French

Reinforcements for Dakar.

Three Liners MARAKESH SINAIA MARECHAL LYAUTEY arrived Dakar 20/10 with full complement troops and ammunition. Still Dakar 21/10. Reported returning soon to Casablanca. Weekly movement troopships reported between Casablanca and Dakar. Since interception INDO CHINOIS troops from Dakar for other parts of French West Africa reported going overland via Bamako. (Actg. Gov. Freetown 1201/24).

Operations against Libreville.

Adty's 1856/22, my 1825/23 and my 0145/19. Now know LIBREVILLE cannot be taken from land side. Leclerc has full authority from De Gaulle to proceed with proposed operations but all are subject to DELHI's entering harbour with free French ships and remaining to support landing. Local opinion doubts possibility of mines have been laid. Intelligence. (F.O.C. I.C.S. 1547/24).

My 1601 Part 2. Further Intelligence. (F.O.C. I.C.S. 1549/24).

My 1601 Part 3.
(B) Plan continued.
(C) Air attack upon Vichy ships to take place at dawn and there on firing to support main landing party.
(D) DELHI SAVORGNAI DE-BRAZZA and DOMINE enter about 0700 and destroy BOUGAINVILLE CAP DE OALMES and Submarine support if present. (F.O.C. 1 C.S. 1541/24).

My 1602 Part 4.
(e) French Sloop SAVORGNAN de BRAZZA then lands first flight of main landing in her own boats lying 2.3 miles North of Libreville pier.
(f) 2 transports land main body ring of battle fleet being provided by DELHI and Free French ships if needed.
(g) DEVONSHIRE to bombard battery at Dennim Point, if it be soon, and has not been captured by (a).
(F.O.C. 1 C.S. 1553/24)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.10.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

My 1601 Part 5. (a) and (b) are diversions. Leclerc is perfectly confident of success if (f) is carried out and that no difficulty in doing so will occur if (d) succeeds. The total number of troops employed is small but no more are available nor are boats in which to land more. Local opinion which seems reliable is confident that Foreign Legion and Camerons Legion are infinitely and Senegalese troops so greatly superior to Gabonese troops that force is amply sufficient.
(F.O.C.I.C.S. 1555/24.)

My 1601 Part 6. Execution of plan depends on good visibility and with this proviso I consider navigation risk to DELHI acceptable. Risk of mines also considered acceptable with paravane protection. Estimate of submarine risk to DELHI and DEVONSHIRE depends upon result of air to be carried out shortly but can be reduced by surprise and by use of DEVONSHIRE's aircraft, DOMINE and KELT. I agree with Leclerc that dispelling of overwhelming forces by use of DELHI and perhaps long range bombardment by DEVONSHIRE is essential to success but have no doubts at all that if operation is undertaken our force will be completely involved since, although free French land and air forces will fight wholeheartedly against Vichy forces the bulk of the Naval action will devolve upon DELHI.
(F.O.C. I.C.S. 1557/24.)

My 1601 Part 7. Proposed plan appears to me to offer reasonable prospects of success.
(C.S.I. 1559/24).

My 1601. Part 8, and final. If, as appears possible from a message from Libreville intercepted today, reinforcements are expected there shortly, out patrols, whose presence off Libreville is known, may be involved in an incident at any moment, and arrival of more Vichy submarines would render proposed operation impracticable.
(C.S.O. 1601/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French ship movements. Gibraltar 1000/24 LE HARDI escorting JEAN LABORDE passing west to east. 1200 French Armed Trawler CAPTAINE ARMAND escorting AUVERGNE KAKOULIMA passing west to east. 1500 CAPTAINE ARMAND returned westbound. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1507/24).

British ships held up by French. No further exchange of ships. Your 1900/16. French Gov. is already under an obligation by agreement of July 4 to release all Allied ships and ships under the British flag, which were on time charter to French Mission. H.M. Gov. are still waiting for this Agreement to be implemented by the French Gov.
H.M. G. requested the French Gov. to release British ships in return for the four French ships released earlier to repatriate French personnel. (MEKNES, AVEYRON, JEAN L.D. and SAUMUR) H.M.G. requested in return TAKORADIAN, GAMBIAN, ARGYLL at Dakar and TEMPLE PIER at Algiers. The French ships were released by H.M.Gov. continue to detain the four British ships requested H.M. Gov. have since proposed to the French Gov. the release of French ships for the purpose of repatriating French personnel in exchange for further equivalent quantity of British tonnage in addition to the four whose release was previously requested. When the Allied and British ships due to be released under the Agreement of July 4 have been permitted to proceed to British ports and the French Gov. release the four British ships named above in return for the four French ships already returned to France H.M. Gov. will be prepared to study further the question of an exchange of the remaining ships on a ton for ton basis. (Hd. of M. 1928/24 to N.A. Madrid).

South Atlantic.

French Ships, Dakar. Repeating Governor, Sierra Leone's 1735/23, re 3 French liners arrived Dakar, to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. and S.O. Force H. (D.D.I.C. 0816/24).

Suspicious Ships. My 2242 R/23. Investigation shows ORMONDE had little or no reason to report that these ships were acting in suspicious manner, (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1003 Z/24).

SPROOSKERK Overdue 21/10, arrived Durban (S.O.(I) Capetown 1145 R/24).

BRECONSHIRE. Your 1803/14. Report vessel's subsequent movements (D.O.D.(F) 2033/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/ Suspicious ship. ....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued).

Suspicious ships. Algoa Bay Radio reports following received from ~~plus~~-GRMU ( ). Begins. 1000 G.M.T. 035° 13' S. 030° 15' E. sighted vessel hull down heading approximately 190° having marked resemblance to REGENSBURG. Ends. Dutch ship ALMKERK may be in this vicinity.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1350 Z/24.)

CARNARVON CASTLE Your 0342 Z/14 and 1036 Z/22 and my 1119N/19 CARNARVON CASTLE is required for another duty and will not now be proceeding on Patrol in J 34 and L 34.
My 1157N/11 date of arrival CARNAVON CASTLE in Rio Area will be delayed for at least 10 days and will be communicated later.
AUSTURIAS should leave to Dock as arranged.
(C.in C. S.A. 1631 N/24 to R.A.S. A.D.)

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements for Fleet. Your 1845/5. Steps are being taken to bring Hurricanes now at Malta to strength of one squadron. Reconnaissance aircraft at Malta will be increased to total of 12 Glenn Martins. September and October allocation of A/A guns will be advanced in despatch to early November. Thereafter monthly allocations will continue until approved scale is reached. The two cruisers referred to in para A. of A.T. 0205/18 and the four destroyers accompanying BARHAM are all that can be spared at present. Above represents maximum reinforcement we can spare at present. Hoped it will enable you to do something from Malta if only for short periods.
(Hd. of M., 1144/24 to C.in C. Med.)

MILOS. Arrived and sailed from Piraeus evening 21/10. My 1211/16. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1012/22).

Air raid on Alexandria. 0300 to 0430. About 6 a/c, 25 bombs. No Naval damage (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1405/24

BRITISH SERGEANT
BRITISH ARCHITECT
LOSS Orders (C.in C. Med. 1453/23).

S/M's Bring into force condition A at 0300/25 (Capt. S 1 1717/24 to S/M's on patrol).

Movements Summary No. 163. C.in C. Med. 2021/24.

/ Rumanian Submarines ....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Rumanian Submarines.

N.A. Bucharest reports one Rumanian submarine laid up waiting spare parts. The two small submarines building could be ready by time Danube opens 1941 with German workmen employed. Other ships are prepared and possibly more submarines could be put together by then (N.A.Angora 1705/24).

Assistance to Turkey.

Admiral Kelly's interpretation of Adty. intentions. Turkish requirements from Great Britain. Their contribution (N.A. Angora 2219/24).

Operation M.A.4.2.

C.in C. Med., 1235/24. (see 23/10) Convoy A.N.S. Route. Escort CALCUTTA, HERO and HAVOCK. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1029/24).

Malta Convoys, BARHAM BERWICK

Admty. 1849/23. Essential to run A Levant Convoys [redacted], also necessary to run 1 on [redacted] if operation takes place then. Until stocks of Malta have been augmented to a substantial extent operation of fleet will continue to be bound up in convoy work. Objections to BARHAM's entry into Malta must be accepted.
Realised that cancellation of operation UNIFORM will necessitate a cruiser being employed to escort vessels round the Cape. Conisered that BERWICK would be best employed for this.
Not clear why 2 cruisers would be required to escort 2 M T ships round Cape, and in view of reduced state of my cruiser force I am loth to forego its reinforcement longer than is absolutely necessary.
(C.in C. Med. 1515/24 to Admty.)

French troops reliefs for Syria.

V.A. Godfroy has requested safe conduct for passage of 10,000 regular troops to Syria in the way of normal relief. Syria authorities informed him that H.M. Gov. have already agreed to this in principle. Date and ships not yet stated. It is intended to sail these in 2 convoys and second is to curry a cargo for building works in Beyrout. I have replied that the matter has been referred to U.K. for decision.
(C.in C. Med. 1935/24).

Libyan supply ship routes.

Have you as a result of recent reconnaissance formed any opinion as to the routes used by Italian supply and troop ships between Italy and Libya, and the volume of traffic on these routes.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2051/24 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

24.10.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

GLIMMAREN.

Cancel para. 2 of my 0738/21. No cargo loaded union ports of Lourence Marques for Madagascar.
(C.in C. E.I. 0436Z/24).

OLTENIA.
STEAUA ROMANA.

Roumanian ships OLTENIA and STEAUA ROMANA requisitioned at Mombasa and required in U.K. It may be necessary to repatriate Roumanian crew. No relief officers or crew available in Africa. Can India or Malaya provide.
(C.in C. E.I. 0544Z/24 to P.S.T.O. India, Commodore Malaya).

ENEMY DESTROYER BOMBED 21/10.

My 0358/21 (1) R.A.F. have reported bombing an enemy destroyer one mile east of Harmil Island a.m./21. One hit obtained. Not yet certain whether this was wreck of KIMBERLEY's victim or a fresh destroyer. Full report from LEANDER of night attack on B.N.7 is not expected before about 27 when she returns to harbour.
(C.in C. E.I. 0800Z/24).

GNAT, WARIALDA SLAVOL.

Take GNAT under your orders when she arrives outer Bar noon/27 and escort her to Khor Kuwai at best possible speed. WARIALDA is to proceed independently or in company. Oiler SLAVOL will provide onward escort to Aden.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0806Z/24 to CORNWALLIS).

6 inch Guns from GNAT.

580. Ref; Adty. 1100/21 September.
(1) 6 inch guns and mountings ex GNAT might be used to form coast defence battery for Port Victoria, Seychelles. Request (a) Admiralty's authority to this allocation (b) War Office's concurrence.
(C.in C. E.I. 0958Z/24).

GALILEO GALILEI.

Your 2124/14 to N.O.i/c Aden. Nothing suitable available from GALILEO GALILEI until final service of U/Boat is settled.
(C.in C. E.I. 1110Z/23).

MOST SECRET.

24.10.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

KIMBERLEY.

My 1538/22 (?1548/22 intended)
(1) KIMBERELY undergoing repairs Port Sudan. Starboard engine and hull will be completed 1200/27. (iii) If tests and trials are satisfactory intend ship to continue on service with power of port engine limited until new steam pipe is fitted.
(C.in C. E.I. 1456Z/24).

DANGER ZONES.

Para.1 of your 1126/17. The danger zone in 1432/16 has already been notified to neutral governments and was justified to them as being an answer to the almost identical Italian announcement. It is, therefore, not intended to alter the publicly declared boundaries of the zone.

The zone announced in in general wider than that proposed by you and the public announcement does not bind you in framing your instructions except to determine the maximum zone within which you may authorise sinking at sight. You have full discretion to draw up instructions for action within the zone in the manner you think most appropriate.

Your 0854/22. Terms of warning to neutral governments are as in para.1 of Admiralty message 1432/16 with the addition that due regard will be paid to legitimate neutral shipping entering and leaving the Red Sea.

Action should be taken forthwith.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2000/24 to C.in C.E.I.)

Red Sea, Convoys.

C.in C. E.I. 1122/23 para. IV. (a) S.N.O. Red Sea is requested to eport what additional escort would be needed.

(b) subsequently C.in C. Mediterranean is requested to report if this could be provided.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2356/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Re sending of men to South Africa and from there to Lisbon by a Portuguese line. Your 1140/19 Para.(1). Facilities would be available. (C.in C. China 1005 Z/24 to Adty.)

Trade with China.

Adty. 0825/18 (Presumably C.in C. China 0825/18 intended). Admiral Terraux asks that tankers should not come to Indo China for the present since Vichy have ordered this. Vichy permission is being requested for one tanker per monsoon. Consul General Hanoi is consulting Gov. Gen. on the subject. (L.O. Saigon 0412 Z/24 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

? LAURENT MERUS. My 1046/20 Washington reports Belgian Embassy have informed me that Belgian Government in London has requested a report from Captain the nature of which I do not know, and ship is now being detained San Pedro until this has been furnished. Cargo is 60 thousand barrels diesel oil supplied by General Petroleum no reason to believe anything but a normal commercial transaction is involved. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1221/24).

BRADFORD. My 1046/20 and 1721/22. Have still no news of BRADFORD. Request earliest possible information of safe arrival of this ship. BURNHAM reported BRADFORD dropped astern unknown to himself. Request this occurrence which nullified object of sailing these ships in groups may be investigated on arrival. It is known BRADFORD had only flying boat W/T transmitter of very low power. (B.S.3 1336/24).

Australia.

Operations by N.E.I. navy.

C.in C. N.E.I. intends to institute patrol by surface warships approx. on the Equator between 130° E. and 180° E. to protect Dutch trade coming from U.S.A.
2. It will be necessary for Dutch to station an oiler in some position central to this patrol, probably at an island in the Australian Mandate.
3. Request you will arrange for every assistance to be given to C.in C. N.E.I. should he ask for such base.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1707/24 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.10.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Re information that AMELIESE ESSBERGER has crew of 7 ships on board	Your 1647/22. Secret source reports it is thought ship may be ELSA ESSBERGER or might be a similar ship of same company. It is believed grading B three is correct. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires, 1225/24)
RUDOLF ALBRECHT	Tanker at Teneriffe, reported to have taken oil from Italian tanker TAIGETE and to be preparing to sail (D.S. 416)
MADRID	At Las Palmas, reported to be preparing to sail shortly (D.S. 416)
Las Palmas	Reported all German ships to be ready to leave within 20 days (list) (D.S. 416)
HERMONTHIS MUNCHEN HOMBRRATE	At Calloo, unable to obtain oil up to 15/10 (D.S. 416)
Narvik	Of ships sunk in Narvik actions, BOCKENHEIM still aground, JAN WELLEM, PLANET and another will soon be afloat, LIPPE being salved (D.S. 416)
Black Sea	Reported Germans chartering Roumanian ships and also Bulgarian BALKAN and SHIPKA (DS 416)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Las Palmas	Reported all Italian ships to be ready to leave within 20 days. (list of 10 there) (D.S. 416)
CORTELLAZO	Thought to be refuging at Yokohama, now known to have left there on 5/6 and arrived Dairen 9/6 where she now is. (D.S. 416) (Capt O.S. Singapore 05012/24)
REX	Reported at Pola, well camouflaged. (DS 416)
CARBONIA	Rumoured sunk by submarine off Durazzo on 22/8. (D.S. 416)
FIUME	Auxiliary engined sailing vessel of 40 tons, said to transport stores every Thursda between Rhodes and Scarpanto. (D.S. 416)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

THALIA — Convoy escort reports picking up survivors. (D.T.D. 1141/24)

SEDGEPOOL — British 5556 tons, Convoy escort reports picking up survivors. (D.T.D. 1141/24 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

LAESTANCIA (Torpedoed in HX79) — 7 survivors landed by INDUNA at Methil (N.O.I.C. Methil 1708/24) 32 survivors have been landed (D.S. 416)

RUPERRA (Torpedoed in HX78) — 2 survivors landed by INDUNA at Methil (N.O.I.C. Methil 1708/24) 39 survivors have been landed (D.S. 416)

BRANDANGER — In Convoy HX 77. Sunk (about 11/10-13/10) (D.T.D. 1740/24)

NIRITOS (Torpedoes in SC 7) — Chief Officer and 12 men landed at Londonderry. Captain and 13 had previously arrived Clyde. One man missing. (D.S. 416)

UGANDA
LOCH LOMAND
(Torpedoed in HX 79) — No presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 416)

BLAIRSPEY (Torpedoed in SC 7) — Will probably be beached. (D.S. 416)

PACIFIC RANGER (Torpedoed 12/10) — Icelandic trawler THORMONDUR arrived Reykjavik p.m./24 with master and 12 survivors of SS PACIFIC RANGER. 6266 tons torpedoed and sunk in position 056° 20' N., 011° 45' W., at 1915/12. Survivors picked up after 9 days in position 057° 50' N., 010° 00' W., at 0900/21. 2 other boats approximately 20 each last seen position ship was sunk at 1700/13. (F.O. Iceland 1655/24)

/Attack on Convoy....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

Attack on Convoy H.X. 79 19-20/10.

Commodore and Masters of INDUNA and UGANDA ex convoy H.X. 79 interviewed on arrival Methil and following views were expressed.
(A) Attack was made by two or more submarines closing flanks of convoy at high speed on surface.
(B) Submarines submerged to fire torpedoes and then surfaced to regain position.
(C) One submarine at least passed through port wing column on surface and torpedoed 2 or 3 ships in inner columns.
(D) Parachute flares were observed floating in air lighting up convoy and presumably sent up by submarine.
(E) Several ships left convoy after first casualty and it is thought most of these were torpedoed.
(F) Work of submarines facilitated by two burning oilers which lit up convoy.
(G) Weather was ine and sea calm.
(H) Attack lasted for 4 hours.
(I) No gunfire was heard.
(J) Escort consisted of 2 destroyers, 1 sloop 5 corvettes 2 trawlers disposed all round convoy.
(K) Evasive steering and large alterations of course had been carried out at frequent intervals during previous 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1915/24, amended C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/25)

Submarines Reported

0930-1315/23 — Lisbon reports submarine sighted north of San Miguel, Azores, at 0830 and 1215 G.M.T. /23. Grade A.O. (F.O.C.N.A. to ALCANTARA, CORNWALL, 0135/24)

1509 — 58° to 59° N., 17° to 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 416)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: Probably one to N. of Azores.
German : 1 may arrive Lorient today and another tonight.
1 in vicinity Porcupine Bank bound Northwards.
4 or 5 in N.W. Approaches or farther W.
1 was in about 58° 30' N., 19 W at 1510/23
1 in about 60° N., and West of 25° West.
Probably 2 operating off S.W. Norway.
(D.D.I.C. 1354/24)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Patrol East of Shetlands Search by Home Fleet Units	Force E.(SOMALI, MATABELE and PUNJABI) last night patrolled eastward of the Shetlands the enemy having shown marked interest in the Shetlands yesterday. From daylight today aircraft of R.N.A.S. co-operated in search for homeward bound U-Boats between Muckle Flugga and Port Authur. There were further indications of enemy air reconnaissance over the Shetlands this morning, and reconnaissance aircraft were also active over Scapa.
Operation D.N.	C.S. 15 in NAIAD with BONAVENTURE left Rosyth this morning to raid shipping near Egersund.
Operation D.N.U.	Force E proceeded for an offensive sweep off Stadlandet.
Enemy Intelligance	There were indications this forenoon that an important movement, in which an 8 inch cruiser was possibly involved, was taking place from Northern Norway to the Skagerrak. Two groups were sent to investigate. Group one consisting of ARETHUSA, NORFOLK and SOUTHAMPTON proceeded towards Stadlandet. Group Two consisting of the battle cruisers, HOOD and REPULSE, DIDO, PHOEBE and 5 destroyers proceeded towards Obrestad. SEAWOLF and O 24 were ordered to withdraw their patrols about 18 miles off the Norwegian Coast.
Dover Patrol	Dover Patrol was cancelled this evening owing to fog.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U-Boat Campaign

C. in C., Home Fleet has renounced the withdrawal of ACHATES and ANTELOPE from North Western Approaches.

Convoy C.W. 15 Shelled

Enemy batteries shelled Convoy C.W. 15 whilst between South Goodwin and Folkestone Gate at 1745 and again between 1958 and 2111 today.

R.A.F. bombed the Gris Nez batteries during the passage of the convoy, and this no doubt hampered the enemy batteries. No damage to the convoy is reported.

Dover Shelled

Dover was also shelled between 2104 and 2206, damage causing a temporary hold up of rail traffic.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Channel Ports attacked last night were Flushing and Rotterdam. Single aircraft attacked Dunkirk and Ostend. Blohm and Voss shipyards at Hamburg and docks at Cuxhaven were also attacked. Single aircraft attacked Bremen, Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg.

Coastal Command

Targets were attacked last night at Le Havre, Bremerhaven and Lorient. Shipping and harbour works at Antwerp were attacked today.

A Special reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast from Trondheim to Stadlandet was carried out today.

Enemy Air Activity

FERNIE was bombed by 9 aircraft off Ramsgate this afternoon, but no damage is reported.

/F.A.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

F.A.A. safety vessel DUTHIES was sunk by a near miss this evening, alongside the jetty at Montrose.

Convoy C.W. 15 was bombed off Deal this evening but no damage is reported.

The traffic office at Chatham Dockyard was wrecked today. AtWrabness the telephone wires were damaged last night. Slight damage was caused at Arbroath this evening (see also DUTHIES)

AVANCE (examination vessel) was attacked by and enemy seaplane which fired a torpedo at her off Aberdeen this evening. The torpedo missed astern.

Mining

Five Hampdens last night laid mines off Brest and 5 Swordfish in the Maas Estuary.

Several ports were affected by enemy mine laying today, Belfast closed at 0132, re-opened 1111/25 but ships are not to anchor in Belfast Lough.

Blyth, closed at 0315. Reopened 1456.

Tyne, Opened at 0932. 2 magnetic mines detonated a.m.

Hartlepool, closed at 0954.

Plymouth, closed at 1136, reopened 1728.

Liverpool (closed 0400/24) Reopened 1000, but there is a dangerous area near Bear L.V.

Rosyth, closed between Inchkieth East Gate and 2° 52' W.,

Port of Methil is open.

/6 ships.....

MOST SECRET

25.10.1940
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

6 Ships Mined

Trawler WINDSOR was sunk 2 miles south of Spurn Point a.m. today, and a second ship, name unknown, believed to be an incoming trawler was sunk this morning 3½ miles S.E. of Spurn Point.

SS MOUNT BATTOCK was mined in the Humber.

LL Trawler LORD INCHCAPE was mined off Plymouth this morning and sank after being towed to Jennycliff Bay.

A motor fishing vessel, believed to be the ENCOURAGE was also sunk off Breakwater Fort both presumed by new type enemy mine.

A/S Trawler ST WINSTON was damaged by a mine off the Humber today.

Operations Against Vichy French

DEVONSHIRE and DELHI are to institute a patrol off Libreville to discourage French reinforcements from approaching.

The French ship ALBI was intercepted by DELHI just north of the Equator and south of the Ivory Coast and scuttled herself. DELHI sank the wreck as fires were out of control, and took the crew prisoners. ALBI was in ballast from Casablanca to Libreville to load timber.

Mediterranean

Bombardment by APHIS

Early this morning APHIS, working in co-operation with R.A.F. who dropped flares carried out a successful 40 minute bombardment of an enemy concentration 15 miles East of Sidi Barrani. Fire was in due course opened from ashore, but APHIS was not hit.

Last night R.A.F. attacked Benghazi harbour with the object of denying the use of the port for reinforcement.

/MALAYA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

MALAYA (F.O.C. I B.S.) EAGLE, ORION, SYDNEY, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers left Alexandria this morning, to cover Convoy A.N. 5. which left Egyptian ports p.m. yesterday escorted by CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers.

6 Blenheims of the R.A.F. bombed Tobruk at 0835, and another 9 Blenheims straddled the north foreshore with bombs, demolishing buildings in the naval barracks area.

East Indies

Blenheims today bombed Assab, dropping bombs on the pier and elsewhere.

China

British SS MINSANG was bombed and this evening in 27° 52' N., 121° 15' E., outside the prohibited area, by a Japanese Naval party which employed force to search the ship and sealed the W/T.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Withdrawal of 2 Destroyers from H.W. Approaches

Your 2249/24. Your need is greater than mine please keep ACASTES and ANTELOPE, I can now do without them as ECHO and ESCAPADE are arriving shortly. (C. in C., H.F. 1059/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

W.R. Plan Dagger owing to increased possibility of enemy mining in winter nights it is now necessary that minesweeping forces should make the search of channels their principle object. Search for mines on East Coast route should normally be timed to give best protection to convoys. In order to reduce strain on ships and men, R.C. patrols should be maintained when weather conditions or enemy intelligence indicate that invasion or a raid is likely. (1st S.L. 1819/25)

Monthly Meetings

Cancel Adty. 2052/24. Revised arrangements. (1st S.L. 2028/25)

DELUGE

At 0200/25. (D.C. 0205/25, 0835/25.
At 1400/25. (D.C. 1432/25)

Rosyth Night Artillery Zone

Request it may be reintroduced, in view of minelaying by E/A and presence of certain ships at Rosyth (V.C.N.S. 0009/25)

Movements

HIGHLANDER HARVESTER

HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER sailed in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 1249/22. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0901/25)

EDINBURGH AGAMEMNON COMORIN

Your 1555/24. Owing to sailing of EDINBURGH passing Tyne Pier heads at 1600/29, AGAMEMNON and COMORIN will sail on 30/10 passing Tyne Pier Heads at 1000. Request destroyer and air escorts may be arranged. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1257/25 to C. in C., H.F)

JERSEY

Expected to be ready to leave Sheerness 27/10. Request confirmation that destination is Plymouth. (C. in C., Nore, 1510/25 to C. in C., W.A.)
Your 1510/25. Destination confirmed. (C. in C., W.A. 1740/25)

/Orkneys.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Orkneys	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/25)
Northern Patrol	Ships occupying Trawler lines today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/25)
Portsmouth	Night movement signal (C. in C., Portsmouth 1537/25)
GLASGOW	My 1512/24. To sail 28/10 not 26/10. (C. in C., H.F. 1538/25)
Western Channel	Night report. (C. in C., W.A. 1545/25)
Rosyth	Movements tonight (C. in C., Rosyth 1854/25)
WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN	Orders re proceeding to Porta Delgada, Asores when ready fro sea, (A.C.N.S. (F) 2322/25)
DUNCAN FOXHOUND	Revised arrangements for duties (R.A.D. 2320/25)

Submarines

H. 28	To sail 1500/27. Route. Zone. (S.O. S/M's Harwich 0941/25)
TRIUMPH	Trials satisfactory. To work up. Propose she sails 6/11 not 3/11. (S 2 1419/25)
H. 49	Orders for leaving patrol for Harwich (S.O. S/M'S Harwich 1555/25)
Positions & Movements	0700/26. (V.A.S. 1649/25, 2234/25)
STURGEON	Movements. Amending 1649/25 (V.A.S. 2106/25)
SEAWOLF	Informing her of movements affecting her (Capt S. 3. 2251/25)

/ SUNFISH.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

SUNFISH — SUNFISH escorted by SLEIPNER will arrive off Duncansby Head at 0800/27 on passage to patrol area North of Muckle Flugga.

One destroyer is to be sailed from Scapa to relieve SLEIPNER in the above position and provide onward escort as far as Muckle Flugga. (C. in C., H.F. 1014/25 to R.A. (D)

Sails 1300/26. Route etc., (S. 3. 1341/25 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — Intelligence summary No 503. Operations to 2359/24 (H.Q.B.C. 0200/25)

Coastal Command — Operations night 24/25. BREMEN and EUROPA not seen (Air Ministry. 0815/25)

Enemy Aircraft Activity

FERNIE — 9 aircraft bombing 51° 20' N. 1°32' E., (FERNIE 1616/25, 1630/25) Still shadowing. (FERNIE 1659/25)

Chatham Dockyard — One bomb 6.40 hours today. Traffic office wrecked (Supt. C.E. 1852/25)

Wrabness — 7 bombs at 2150/24 without advanced warning. Telephone wires damaged. (F.O.i/c Harwich 1117/25)

S.L. 50 — White rocket observed astern of convoy 2350/21 in 54° 38' N., 17° 48' W. 1 escort proceeded back 8 miles, nothing seen. Thought to be an enemy ruse to draw escort. No attack made on convoy. (CLEMATIS 1255/25)

Air R.C. — There are indications of German Naval Air R.C. between Flamborough Head and Girdleness (D.D.I.C. 2026/25)

Arbroath — Air Attack about 1840. Damage ascertained so far not serious. No serious casualties yet found. (R.A.N.A.S. 2101/25)

/Convoy C.W. 15....

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Aircraft Activity-Contd.

Convoy C.W. 15. Passed Dover. Bombed off Deal. (V.A.Dover 2111/25)

DUTHIES Sunk Steam drifter DUTHIES attached to F.A.A. Arbroath was sunk by a near miss of bomb alongside jetty at Montrose at about 1845 today. All crew safe. One man slightly wounded in head. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1930/25)

Mining

Belfast Closed due to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0132/25) Now open (N.O.i/c Belfast, 1111/25) Re my 1111/25 Port is only open for ships proceeding direct to Berth in harbour. No ship may anchor in Belfast Lough. (N.O.i/c Belfast 1711/25) Ships may now anchor in Bangor Bay, south of swept Channel. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1911/25)

Blyth Closed, suspected minelaying. Expect to open 1400 (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0315/25) Blyth open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1456/25, C. in C., Rosyth 1542/25)

Tyne Port open (F.O.I/C Tyne 0932/25) 2 ground magnetic mines detonated by LL at 1034 and 1035 off Blyth E. Pierhead. (P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1258/25, F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1309/25)

Liverpool Until further notice anchorage prohibited in area within 5 miles of Bar L.V. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 0950/25) Port reopened 1000/25 (F.O.i/c Liverpool 1005/25) My 0950/25 Area east of Bar L.V. south of line joining Bar L.V.A and Q.I. Black buoy is considered clear. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 1746/25)

Hartlepool Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. Vessels for Hartlepool may enter Tees. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0954/25)

Plymouth Port closed due to suspected aircraft minelaying (C. in C., W.A. 1136/25) Port now open (C. in C., W.A. 1728/25)

/Tr. WINDSOR.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Trawler WINDSOR Sunk	Trawler WINDSOR outward bound form Grimsby sunk by underwater explosion 174° Spurn Point 2.1 miles. One casualty. (F.O. Humber, 1215/25)
LORD INCHCAPE Sunk ENCOURAGE Sunk	Since my 1356/21 regret to report mining of LL Trawler LORD INCHCAPE in approx. 228° 8.5 cables breakwater light at 0925 LORD INCHCAPE towed to Jennycliff Bay where she sank in 24 ft water one seaman missing also loss of motor fishing vessel believed to be ENCOURAGE in 210° 61/2 cables approx. from Breakwater Fort at 0904 both presumed by new type enemy mine. (C. in C., W.A. 1748/25)
SS MOUNTBATTOCK Mined	SS MOUNTBATTOCK sinking in position of 62 C Buoy as result of mine explosion in Humber. SS. GRIT stand by. Request immediate assistance. (WOLFHOUND 1820/25)
Second Ship Sunk	Regret to report second ship name unknown believe to be incoming trawler sunk a.m. today by under water explosion 131 ½ degs. Spurn Point 3.50 miles. No survivors. (F.O.Humber 2220/25)
Rosyth	Due to suspected enemy minelaying the Approach to Rosyth is closed between Inchkieth East Gate and 02° 52' W., Port of Methil is open. D.G. range area is closed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1331/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Air Reports	BREMEN, EUROPA, TIRPITZ etc., (See O.I.C report for details) (P.I.U. 0031/25)
Antwerp	Shipping is now disposed as follows. (H.Q.C.C 1223/25)
German Main Units	My 1159/22. For Wilhelmshaven 21/10 ~~24/10~~. (D.D.I.C. 1651/25)
Surface Craft off Beachy Head	Enemy surface craft reported 200° Beachy Head 10 miles at 2145 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2210/25 to FERNIE)
Enemy Destroyers	Enemy destroyer(s) may be operating from Cherbourg tonight 25/26 October. (Capt S. 5. 2350/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BAY DEODAR	Owing to collision damage BAY did not sail and due to grounding DEODAR did not sail with C.W. 15. Intend to sail them for Portsmouth in company as soon as damage has been made good. (C. in C., Nore, 1354/25)
BEAGLE	Your 1035/24 and BEAGLE's 1410/25. These defects will be taken in hand at Greenock before sailing BEAGLE for Scapa. (F.O.1/c Greenock 1626/25)
MARGAREE	120½ My 1142/24 urgently request information may be sent by cable forthwith or such information which is available. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1528/25 to Admty.)
MARITMA	My 0955 B/22 MARITMA arrived Durban (S.O. I. Cape Town 1125B/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

Movements — Tonight 25-26/10. (C. in C., Rosyth 1845/25)

O.B.C. 234 — AMAZON to escort (Capt D. 12 0935/25) A/S trawler escort should read ST APOLLO, LADY LILIAN only. Time of sailing (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1126/25)

S.L.A. 50 — Position (CLEMATIS, 0130/25)

F.N. 18 — Hartlepool closed. Any ship in F.N. 18 to be diverted to Tees. BENEFICENT bound Tyne should be diverted Sunderland. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1110/25)

O.B. — O.B. Convoys intended only for ships of 9 knots in reasonable weather. Slower ships to be kept for O.B.S. Convoys. (D.T.D. 1925/25)

Routes
Northern Approaches — Cancel my 1402/30/6 and substitute. All convoy routes will be by Northern Approaches only. All ships for East Coast ports in Homeward convoys except those in S.C. Convoys proceed to Oban. Those in S.C. convoys proceed to Clyde. All ships in homeward convoys are to be provided with routes to Belfast, Liverpool, Oban, Clyde, Milford Haven and Barry Road. Stragglers bound for East Coast ports from S.C. convoys proceed to Clyde. Stragglers for East Coast ports from all ether homeward convoys proceed to Oban. Homeward bound admiralty Oilers for Scapa to proceed with Oban portion of convoy. (D.T.D. 1602/25)

W.N.,
Pentland Firth — Requesting permission for W.N. convoys to enter Pentland Firth in dark hours. (N.C.S.O Clyde, 1505/24, to C. in C., W.A.)

Balloons — A. 910/24/10. Ref. 1919/19. Up to maximum 8 balloons may accompany each convoy. Number to be requested C. in C., Nore of 30 Group who will satisfy whenever possible. (H.Q. Balloon Command, 1601/24)

S.L. 50 — For information, 2350/21 in 5438 N 1748 W White rocket observed astern convoy S.L. 50 1 escort proceeded back 8 miles nothing seen thought to be enemy ruse to draw escort no attack made on convoy. (CLEMATIS 1255/25)

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French

Aircraft, Dakar.

Report of Glen Martino and Curtiss Wrights continuing to arrive from Morocco, approx. 100 modern aircraft Ouakam and Thies hangars. (G.O.C. W.A., to W.O., 220/24, received from W.O., 1645/25).

Libreville, DEVONSHIRE, DELHI.

Message from Prime Minster:- [redacted] French reinforcements should be made to turn back, if possible without active fighting. Ostentatious patrol by DEVONSHIRE and DELHI should be instituted forthwith. (1 S.L. to C.S.1 1641/25). *Les Operations Klaume.*

Operation "Ration".

Your 1550/24. Operation [redacted] will be called Operation Ration. Preparations to be made for it, (date), but [redacted] Ration not to be carried out without further Admty. instructions. (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 1835/25). *Les Operations Klaume.*

DELHI

Your 1043/25 (no trace in W.R.) Probable routine of SIKORSKI at Libreville, Port Gentil. (F.O.I.C.S. to DELHI, 1817/25).

Have left French ship ALBI stopped position 000° 34' N. 008° 39' E. with prize crew on board. Crew tried to scuttle and fire ship. Fire is under reasonable control but sea cocks cannot be closed until fire is out. Have resumed patrol keeping V/S touch. Am endeavouring to get KELT to tow. (DELHI, 1557/25)

Exchange of Prisoners.

Vichy Government states that our proposal for the exchange of prisoners can only apply to British nationals. Please pass urgently following message to French N.A. Proposal of H.M.G. is for exchange of all prisoners taken by both sides without distinction. It is an essential condition of the exchange that (8 names) should be included. H.M.G. would take a most serious view of the matter if any irrevocable action was taken against Frenchmen named before conclusion of these negotiations. (Hd. of M. 1809/25, to N.A. Madrid).

My 1809 to N.A. Madrid. You should inform Boisson of the terms of the communication which N.A. Madrid has been instructed to make to French N.A. (Hd. of M. 1810/25 to C.in C. S.A.).

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration".

See Operations Against Vichy French (1 S.L. 1835/25).

/ Spanish Shipping, Italian Attacks. .....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Spanish Shipping, Italian Attacks.	S.O.I., Gibraltar's 1734/24 to D.N.I. Signal text of document immediately. (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 2321/25) For text, see 26/10.
Enemy A/C.	Yesterday 25/10 one Martin recce. aircraft flying 22,000 ft. appeared over Rock 1055 hrs. no bombs dropped, A.A. fired three rds. Regret not reported yesterday. Few new Spanish Fd. Works north La Linea appearing. (Covr. Gib. 2305/26, to W.O.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship.	Admty. 2148/24 (requesting name of ship in his 1350 Z/24, re sighting of ship resembling REGENSBURG). Name of first ship is PORT HUNTER. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0710 B/25)
BRECONSHIRE	Admty. 2033/24. BRECONSHIRE left Capetown 0618/17 for Kilindini. Expected time of arrival a.m./23. My 0703/17 refers. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0857 Z/25 to Admty.)
KENYA.	Ran a main bearing during exercises 24/10. Sailing of ship and ORCADES will be delayed probably until p.m. 26/10. (C.in C. S.A. 1209/25).
DELHI.	Send ship to Lagos. I will clear your 1557/25 (not recd. in War Reg.) (C.S.1 to DELHI, 1745/25).
BULOLO.	My 1231/23. Amend route. (C.in C. S.A. to BULOLO, 1845).
Troop Movements, DRAGON.	My 1051/21 and 0131/23. Movement of troops from Takoradi and Lagos to Mombasa can now be deferred to synchronize with Convoy W.S.4A. Suggested DRAGON escorts WESTERNLAND to Freetown whilst escorting PENNLAND to Bathurst. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A., 1844/25).
SOTRA) SOIKA) SARNA) SVANA)	Date of arrival Ponta Delgada. To proceed Bathurst, not St. Vincent. Not to pass within 20 miles of French territory. (D.O.D. (F) 2226/25)
MARITIMA	Overdue shipping, my 0955 B/22. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Capetown, 1125 B/25).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Aircraft. 4 Cant. aircraft have now returned from Asmara to Rome via Benghazi. 1801/19 refers re 4 a/c from Dodecanese to Bahrein. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 0958/25 to Iraq).

Sunderlands, weather. Weather difficult for Sunderlands to operate from Malta. In 10 days, not possible to fly off Ionian Sea reconnaissance on 5 occasions, thus gaps in patrol line. 6 Glen Martins due at Malta have not materialised. (C.in C. Med. 1133/25).

Operation M.A.Q.2. Plans for, 25/10 to 28/10. F.O.1 B.S. with MALAYA, EAGLE, ORION, SYDNEY, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers. Convoy A.N.5 leave Port Said and Alexandria p.m./24 for Dardanelles escorted by CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers. (C.in C. Med.,1235/24, received 1915/25) Convoy A.N.5, Route. Escort CALCUTTA, HERO and HAVOCK (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1029/24).

"Uniform" cancelled. Reply to my 1849/23 urgently required. Operation Uniform now cancelled and White Collar deferred until date given. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. Med., 1818/25)

Enemy Units. Enemy surface forces reported active off East Sicilian Coast. (Capt. S. 1, 1905/25)

Sidi Barrani Bombarded, APHIS APHIS working in co-operation with R.A.F. carried out a successful 40 minute bombardment of enemy concentration 15 miles East of Sidi Barrani early on 25/10. Shells among motor transports causing much damage and igniting what appeared petrol dump. Fire was in due course opened from shore but ship was not hit. Intend issuing following communique: Naval force working in co-operation with the R.A.F. successfully attacked an enemy concentration near the coast East of Sidi Barrani early on 25/10. Enemy motor transport was destroyed and a large fire started in a fuel dump. No damage or casualties were sustained by our force. (C.in C. Med. 1931/25).

HOTSPUR, Repairs. Your 1539/23 and Admty 1923/5. If HOTSPUR can be made fit to steam 17 knots it is for consideration that she should be sent to Malta for repairs during Operation WHITE COLLAR. (C.in C. Med. 1319/25, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Shipping Telegrams. Consul General Thessaloniki in his telegram 021/19/10 reports, United Kingdom Commercial Corporation have sent telegrams "En Clair" concerning shipping movements. The Regular return ensuring safety of shipping is rendered doubly difficult by such indiscretions. Request Admiralty will arrange with M.E.W. for their communications to be passed through

/ diplomatic .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Shipping Telegrams. (Continued)

diplomatic or Consular channels. (C.in C. Med., 0025/25).

NARVAL.

Malta departure Friday 25/10 French Submarine NARVAL for patrol. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1903/25).

Combined Operations, Code Words.

Admty. 1055/22/9. By arrangements with Middle East a block of words beginning with A. has been allotted for use by Navy in operations affecting more than one service but in which Navy is predominant partner. Similarly operation orders may be issued by either R.A.F. or Army in which Navy may be taking part and which one of other services is chiefly affected. In this latter case an Army or R.A.F. allotted word would be used. Presume this is acceptable and that words given in Admty. 1055/22 will be confined to purely naval operations. (C.in C. Med. 2041/25 to Admty.)

East Indies.

Port Sudan Bombed.

A. 857 Para. 2, Sudan, 24/10 0500 hours. 1 Wellesley 14 Sqdn. convoy escort patrol off Port Sudan. No enemy sighted. 0645 hours 1 Wellesley 14 Sqdn. photographed destroyer sunk off Harmil Island after action against British Naval escort with convoy on 21/10. Heavy A.A. experienced from 2 ships in Bay. 0930 hours. 2 unidentified enemy aircraft attacked convoy in Port Sudan Harbour from 15,000 feet dropping 12 H.E. bombs. Negligible damage resulted. 23 natives killed some wounded. Fighters failed to intercept. (H.Q. R.A.F. ME. 1224/25).

West Africa A/C Patrols.

A. 857. 25/10 Para. 3 Kenya. 23/10 and 24/10 S.A.A.F. reconnoitred area Sololo Dobel Geldeza and Kismayu and carried out coastal patrols Mombasa and Zanzibar areas. Bombs dropped on enemy positions Dobel and Buna. 12 large ships with Askari and Kiongai Harbour Kismayu indicating 1 large ship arrived since 30/8. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1226/25).

A/S Destroyers.

Admty. 2356/24. 2 A/S destroyers would be required to reach Aden (date) (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0724 Z/25).

Air Report.

A. 708, to 1500/25. (A.H.Q. Aden 1833/25) No naval incidents.

/ Whale Catchers ....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Whale Catchers. Your 0704/13. Whale catchers requisitioned Walvis Bay for local defence E.I. Station. (Hd. of M., 2054/25, to C.in C. E.I.)

GNAT. Admty., 1855/22 passed to all addressees, my 0804/24 is being passed for information to Authorities not previously addressed. GNAT reports intended onward programme after arriving Khor Kuwai. N.O.I.C. Basra forward minesweeping gear by direct route to Mediterranean if possible, otherwise via Bombay. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0600 Z/25).

Convoy B.N.8. Route. List and details. Escort ANTENOR to 53° thence Force Q. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0842/25).

Convoy W.S.3.
CARTHAGE
CUMBERLAND
DORSETSHIRE

Convoys are not to pass within 40 miles of Guardafui in daylight. CARTHAGE is to rendezvous with CUMBERLAND and W.S.3 A at position A at time arranged by N.O.I.C. Simonstown when CARTHAGE will take over escort from CUMBERLAND and then escort to position (g) and then proceed to Aden. ERINPURA is to be detached to be detached to Mombasa as arranged by CARTHAGE. DORSETSHIRE will be required to escort W.S.3 B. in Red Sea as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. Passed to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area for information KENT and S.W.2 A. (C.in C. E.I., 0946 Z/25).

Defence of Ceylon. From discussions on co-ordination of command of defence forces in Far East which have now resulted in decision to create new appointment of C.in C. Far East, question of defence of Ceylon has arisen. Should Japan take offensive against Singapore threat of seaborne attack on Ceylon might arise. Scale of such attack might well necessitate reinforcement of Ceylon which could most conveniently be provided from India. Desirable that staff discussions should take place at early date between C.in C. India and yourself with Brigadier to assess requirements. In agreement with general policy regarding raising forces in India for overseas service it will be for H.M.G. to say whether such reinforcements should be raised specifically for this role and to issue orders for their despatch when need arises. (Colonial Office, 2300/25, to Govr. Ceylon).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore Conference. Admty. 1815/24. U.S. officers as observers. (N.A. Washington, 1259/25).

America and West Indies.

NEPTUNIA Intercepted letter 25/9 from Itawa Nav. Co., Genoa, to La Guaira, showing 1500 cases olive oil from Italy arrived Barcelona in NEPTUNIA to be forwarded in ALDECOA to La Guaira. No dates of shipments given. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1635/25).

DIOMEDE My 1152/23. On passage to Trinidad show yourself during daylight off Pointe A Hapitre and Fort de France. (C.in C. A.W.I., to DIOMEDE, 1111/25).

U.S. Courses. My 1010/19. Navy Dept. now proposes 1 week at Sound School at San Diego followed by 2 weeks at Belle Isle Vue. Dates. (N.A. Washington, 1305/25).

Trinidad Naval Volunteer Force. Proposals re additional personnel required for observer training scheme, etc., and question of further expenditure being borne by Imperial funds. Strongly recommend reconsider decision in N. 10142/40, para.2 of 19/8, and that Force be taken over by Admty. (N.O.I.C., Trinidad, 1240/25).

Dutch Shipping. My 1316/19. New York reports Netherlands Committee have ordered all Netherlands Masters to disregard these telegrams. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1309/25).

French Shipping to Martinique. Following from New York (begins). Letter from French Line stating their Casablanca Office announces French Ship will be shortly available to take cargo from Casablanca to Martinique. Such letters have been sent to consignees of cargo ex REGULO, Norwegian Ship, which left Bordeaux with cargo for America just before French armistice and took refuge at Casablanca. Several applications for exemption from Admiralty's orders submitted through me in respect of items of this cargo are pending. No indication of regular service is contemplated. French Line endeavouring to give impression that no possibility of British interception exists and have told one enquirer that all goods would be American property and therefore not subject to seizure. They refuse all information as to identity of French Ship to be employed. (Ends.)
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1704/25 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Hospital Ships. In order to avoid congesting hospital accommodation with Australian and New Zealand forces both in Egypt and Bombay, Hospital ship MANUNDA will keep to approx. 10 week cycle between Australia and Suez lifting 400 cases each voyage. Proposals for using as ambulance transports QUEEN MARY AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA.
(A.C.N.B. 0845 Z/25 to C.in C. E.I., etc.)

Troop Transports. D. of S.T. 2213/23 and A.C.N.B. 1200/25. Australian troop requirements for January reduced to 10,000. Policy re future movements under discussion. (A.C.N.B. 1146 Z/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER) ELSA ESSBERGER)	Both still at Kobe. (N.A. Tokyo, 1101/25).
KULMERLAND	Sailed from Kobe 10/10 as reported (N.A. Tokyo, 1101/25).
USARAMO	My 0826/23. Report (D.4) that she is in Corcubion Bay. (Consul, Vigo, 1318/25).
REGENSBURG	R.O., Yokohama, reports (C.3) now in Siberian port. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0844 Z/25).
LA PLATA BRAKE NORD ATLANTIC ACHILLES KARNAK LECH JOAO PESSOA	Report received (C. 3) that 1,000 empty oil drums have been transferred from LA PLATA to BRAKE which has in turn transferred 393 of them to NORD ATLANTIC ACHILLES, KARNAK, LA PLATA, plus LECH and JOAO PESSOA all appear to be ready for sea and may leave any night. (Consul, Vigo 1133/25).
OSORNO.	Dry docked Talcahuano 24/10. (N.O.I., Kingston, 1126/25).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NEPTUNIA.	(See America and West Indies).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

CHARLES L.D.	My 1101/8. Following from air mail censorship. CHARLES L.D. and CANTAL now believed to have left Casablanca 11/10 for Martinique. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1802/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SEDGEPOOL	British	5556 tons)	Now known to have been torpedoed in Convoy S.C.7, times and positions not yet reported. (See 20/10).
FISCUS	British	4815 tons)	
THALIA	Greek	5875 tons)	
CAIRNVALONA (H.X.79) damaged			CAIRNVALONA reports 7 feet water in No. 5 hold and 6 feet in No. 4 hold caused by near torpedo explosions when (H.X.79) convoy was attacked. Arrangements being made to effect repairs locally. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1142/25).
WANDBY (torpedoed 19/10)			British 4947 tons, Torpedoed 2240/19 45' N. 17° 07' W. Seen to sink, 600 fathoms. Crew of 34 landed Belfast today. No casualties or missing. Vessel hit by one torpedo port side. Neither submarine nor torpedo seen. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1720/25).

Submarines Reported.

0350.	60° N., 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 416).
1908.	D.F., probable U/B. 57.50 N., 5.00 E., reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1949/25).
1930.	D.F. probable U/B, 57° N., 5.00 E., reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2010/25).
2130.	D.F. probable U/B, 48° - 49° N., 09.30 - 10.30 W. (V.A.S. 2153/25).
0855.	Submarine reported 5 miles N.W. of North Stack. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0855/25).
1243.	57.55 N., 03.10 E., (D.S. 417) (Probably same U/B as 1908 and 1930 above).
1431.	57.55 N., 04. 20 E., (D.S. 417). (Probably same U/B as 1908 and 1930 above)
1529.	58.30 to 59.30 N., 16° to 22° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 417).
1529.	48° to 49° N., 09.30 to 10.30 W. (D.S. 417).

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 1 possibly N.W. of Spain making for Bordeaux.
German - 1 was in area 58 degs to 59 degs N: 17 degs to 20 degs W. at 1509/24.
1 was in about 60 degs N: 20 degs W at 0350/25. 4 more in N.W. Approaches or farther W; whereabouts unknown.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1220/25).

A/C E attacked S/M from about 500 ft. with bombs 58.21 N., 4.22 E., estimated 1 hit. S/M was observed to emit column of black smoke and stern rose in the air and dropped again. S/M was now stopped with list to port. On delivering attack bombs failed to drop but bubbles from S/M were clearly seen. Immediately prior to attack A/C J was on a course at right angles to A/C E and consequently had clear view of the result of attack launched by A/C E, when S/M was observed stationary listing to port, sinking lower in water and finally only top of S/M conning tower was visible. (A/C 223 Sqdn., 1220/25) (Donibristle, 1605/25).

1045. By a/c 56.04 N., 7.39 W., oil patch bombed, probably a wreck (D.S. 417).

1644. By a/c 61.20 N., 00.09 W., oil streak bombed. (D.S. 417).

MOST SECRET

26.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity-Contd.

Bomber Command

Targets successfully attacked last night included docks at Hamburg, Krupps shipyards and a power station at Kiel, Bremen, gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez, and a railway junction at Zeebrugge.

Enemy Air Activity

SS EMPRESS OF BRITAIN was bombed and set on fire and abandoned this morning west of Inishtrahull. She had on board 100 women and children from the Middle East. ECHO and BURZA brought in some 570 survivors, some of whom are seriously injured, and 10 dead. Other survivors are reported to be on board CAPE ARGONA.

Some damage was caused to Naval Establishments at Chatham last night.

LONDONDERRY was bombed 16 miles South of Harwich this morning, but was not damaged.

Some damage was done at Wick Aerodrome this evening.

Mining

Mines were found off Belfast, in the Tyne and Humber.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected between the North Foreland and Aberdeen, in the Thames Estuary, and off Liverpool.

Rosyth was closed at 0415 owing to mines believed to have been dropped in an enemy air raid. Port of Leith and Granton approaches are also closed. Methil is open. Leith, Granton and Approaches to Rosyth between Westgate Inchkieth and Forth Bridge were reopened at 1301.

Plymouth was closed shortly after midnight on account of suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft.

/Swansea .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Swansea and Port Talbot were closed this evening.

Belfast was closed at 0156 and was fully opened at 1301, but ships are not to anchor in Belfast Lough.

Hartlepool was reopened at 1244.

Liverpool was closed at 1725.

STROMBUS (whale oil factory ship) was mined in Swansea Bay this afternoon and was beached.

DOSINIA (British tanker) was mined in the Mersey this afternoon and was beached.

KATANGA (Belgian Tanker) was also mined this afternoon in the Mersey and is afloat, anchored.

South Goodwin L.V. is presumed to have been sunk by a drifting wire about 0500 today. The crew were not on board.

Operations Against Vichy French

Outlines of a modus vivendi between Germany and the Vichy Government sent by N.A. Washington, show that the French Fleet will be employed ostensibly to insure freedom of communications between France and Norther Africa. Control of French ports in Mediterranean and North Africa will apparently be given to Germany.

N.A. Washington reports that the Navy Dept. inform him that STRASBOURG and other units returned to Toulon on 22/10, after carrying out exercises.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

ROYAL SOVEREIGN (after repairs at Durban) left Capetown at 1335/26 for Freetown.

WOOLWICH has boiler defects and will be unable to continue with Convoy W.S. 3. beyond the Cape, where she is to be repaired

Mediterranean

Submarines RAINBOW and TRIAD have been overdue since 19/10 and 20/10 and C. in C., Med. reports they must be considered lost.

East Indies

Assab was bombed at 0525 by 3 Blenheims which also dive bombed a vessel between Pieid and Umm Al Baher Island.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 26.10.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Admiralty Message 2062/24. In order to consider future plans, it would be a great help if officers could be told at this meeting the approximate date when we can expect to have air equality with the enemy.

2. Looking ahead, it is obviously desirable to consider future developments for a period of 12 months at least. The main problem to consider in "how can we hit the enemy hard with one or more of our fighting forces?".

It would seem that the R.A.F. could do more if it had air bases nearer to its chief targets in Germany and Italy. The army can be used to strike at the Italians in Africa, or to sieze and hold advance bases for the R.A.F. Assuming that other nations such as Spain, Turkey and Japan do not at present enter the war, it would seem useful to consider the following questions:-

(a) When the attainment of air parity enables us to take the offensive, what sized British army can we send overseas?

(b) Can the Navy then be effectively redistributed so as to provide for the continuous protection of the army's sea communications and at the same time render us immune from invasion?

(c) If our army is sent to Africa, where can it operate most effectively? Can the Navy carry supplies to it through the Mediterranean?

(d) As alternatives to Africa, should the army be used to seize advanced bases for the R.A.F? e.g. Sardinia, Corsica, Minorca, Majorca, Crete and Corfu.

(e) If Spain enters the war, could the army seize and hold Ceuta?

(f) Could our army seize and hold the Cherbourg peninsula.

(g) In view of the great damage done to our ships by German dive bombers, can the R.A.F. develop a dive bomber section which shall be held available and specially trained for co-operation with the Royal Navy against enemy warships?

(h) In view of their great value both at sea and in harbour, can the R.A.F. make a large increase in the number of their torpedo carrying aircraft and train them to take part in Naval operations?

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

(1) Is it possible to make a large increase in the aircraft of Coastal Command so that 16 Group can co-operate more effectively in the work of the Nore Command? We should like more reconnaissance aircraft flying to escort convoys, aircraft with cannon guns to locate and attack E/Boats, dive bombers especially trained to attack enemy warships and transports, and more torpedo aircraft for taking the offensive on the enemy's coast against convoys and other targets.
(C.in C. Nore 1350/26 to Adty).

28.10.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Urging Immediate Action.

Your 1641/25.
Spears, representing Leclerc, arguing from analogy of recent improvements effected in on Mitsik front by Vichy forces, presses for earliest possible action against Libreville and considers every hour's delay reduces chance of success. This quite apart from possible chance of reinforcements from Dakar or by Germans from Spanish Guinea.

I concur and consider a very early decision necessary.
(C.S.1. 1432A/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Home Fleet. It is at your discretion to give Night Leave to a proportion of your Ships now at Rosyth and when this leave is completed to base the Battle Fleet at Scapa. (1st S.L. 0115/26 to C.in C. H.F.).

Armed Merchant Cruisers. W/T Watch to be kept as follows. (D.S.D. 1133/26. A.C.M. 499a)

Auxiliary Patrol. The Auxiliary Patrol is to be maintained during the winter. Its duty remains firstly to report enemy craft, and secondly, toprevent them reaching our shores.

Arrangements are being made to replace by more seaworthy craft those A/P vessels which are unable to operate during the winter. (A.C.N.S. H. 1310/26 to C's-in-C).

Meeting on War Policy. Your 2028/25. Propose to attend myself, circumstances permitting. Items for agenda leaving by courier. (C.in C. H.F. 1916/26 to Adty.)
Should like following subjects raided. (a) Convoy Protection. (b) Policy as to use of Rosyth as Fleet Base and Naval Dockyard. (C.in C. Rosyth 1933/26 to Adty.)

C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/26) See Operations
C.in C. Nore 1350/26) Volume.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 0200/26. (D.C. 0201/26). At 1400/26. (D.C. 1428/26).

Nore Command. Notice for Steam. My 1119/25. Ships not required for duty today keep steam at 4 hours notice till 2000/26. (C.in C. Nore 1005/26).

Nore Command Leave. Following is repetition of my 1048/9 begins. Details. There must always be sufficient minesweepers available to clear the Approach Channel during night if some emergency requires it. Names of ships detailed to be reported. 1048/9. Ends.
(C.in C. Nore 1434/26 to Adty.)
Note. C.in C. Nore's 1117/26 refers.

Night leave in accordance with my 1048/9 may be given tonight Saturday except that only one destroyer is to give night leave at Sheerness.
AURORA and EREBUS may also give night leave.
(C.in C. Nore 117/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Nore Command.	Dispositions for Night 26/27. (C.in C. Nore 0800/26 and 1642/26).
BURNHAM, BURWELL, BROADWATER, BRADFORD	Arrived and proceeded to Greenock. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0910/26).
ARK ROYAL	My 1157/25. Request immediate confirmation of movements ordered in your 1559/25. Cancel instructions in Adty. 2156/24, para iii. (C.D.B. 1043/26 to ARK ROYAL).
CLEVELAND.	Pass Switha 0700/27, R/V at 0800 in 110° Duncansby Head 6 miles with SUNFISH escorted by SLEIPNER. Relieve SLEIPNER, escort SUNFISH East of Orkneys and Shetlands as by S.3. 1341/25, and return Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1140/26 to CLEVELAND).
Dover.	Patrols for Night 26/27. (V.A. Dover 1420/26).
Orkneys.	Trawler Lines on 26/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/26).
AUSTRALIA.	To keep steam at 4 hours notice till further orders. (C.in C. H.F. 1537/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
INTREPID ICARUS	Will act as Escort for B.S. 43 (C.in C. Nore 1750/26).

Operations.

WITCH VOLUNTEER	Enemy Destroyers reported sailed from Cherbourg which may be after the Convoy. Patrol between 49° 56'N., 0° 50' W. and 50° 11' N. 0°50' W., returning to pass Nab at daylight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0012/26 to WITCH, VOLUNTEER) (C.in C. Portsmouth 0017/26 to H.Q.C.C., and Capt. S.6. 0030/26 to SWORDFISH).
Convoy C.W.15 shelled.	2 shells fell at 1745/25 and 23 shells between South Goodwin and Folkestone Gate. (V.A. Dover 0941/26 to Adty.)
Dover shelled.	Between 2104 and 2206/25, 20 shells fell in and near Dover Harbour of which 4 in town. Casualties, 1 naval injured, 1 military injured, civilians 2 killed and 4 injured. Most of firing from a single gun near Calais. Only 2 or 3 salvoes from Wissant and Framzelle. (V.A. Dover 0941/26 to Adty.)

/ Tyne .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

Tyne. One Flying Boat in 54° 51'N. 1° 9'W. Am engaging. (VERDUN 1835 and 1835 and 1849/26) Enemy disappeared Eastward (VERDUN 1901/26).

ALERT. A.M. 1142/24. Anticipate ALERT ready to sail P.M./1st, having been docked. (C.in C. W.A. 1902/26 to Adty.)

Submarines.

CLYDE. To be temporarily attached to 2nd S/M. Flotilla until commencement of refit. (V.A.S. 1041/26).

WILK. Report of Norwegian Coast 14 to 20/10. (V.A.S. 1109/26 to Adty.)

H.43. Exercising in Plymouth S/M Area. (C.in C. W.A. 1444/26).

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1615/26).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/27. (V.A.S. 1641/26).

SWORDFISH) UNIQUE) SWORDFISH in W.2. UNIQUE arrives Position W. from westward at 0930/27. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1707/26).

SUNFISH. Will be met off Duncansby Head at 0800/27 by CLEVELAND and escorted to patrol area North of Shetlands. (A.C.O.S. 1802/26).

British Air Activity.

Orkneys. (HC. Patrol) A.C.O.S. 1818/19/9. Times for Patrol HC. from 28/10 to 3/11 inclusive. (Hatston 1155/26 to A.C.O.S.)

Balloon Barrages at Plymouth and Milford Haven. Re conference at Plymouth on 21/10, following possibilities should be investigated at Plymouth. (Air Ministry 1325/26 to Air Commands.)

Balloon Barrage Vessels in Tyne. My 1549/13. Air Ministry concurs in alteration of positions of Balloon Barrage Vessels to be effected by Balloon Command. (D. of L.D. 1656/26 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Rosyth Area. Air Escorts for 27/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1906/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Firth of Forth. Air Raids on Forth Area A.M. today from 0220 to 0400. Number of Mines believed dropped. Enemy heavily engaged by gunfire. No damage or casualties reported. (C.in C. Rosyth 0415/26 to Adty.)

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN. British, 42,348 tons. Bombed 54° 53' N. 10° 49' W. (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 0925/26 to Scapa W/T). S.O.S. at 0830. B.S.T. in 54° 45' N. 11° 19'W. (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 0935/26) Port Patrick Radio reports intercept at 0946 G.M.T. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN now taking to boats. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0952/26 to Adty.) Detach 2 Destroyers to investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 0957/26 to ECHO) Taking to boats (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, Received 0957/26). Position at 0952 was 55° 8' N. 10° 46' W. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1018/26 to SEAMAN) Sailed Tugs (? SEAMAN) and THAMES from Campbeltown at 1030 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1102/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Raider left about hour ago here. Lifeboat West of Inishtrahull (Port Patrick Radio 1135/26) Your 0957. Position 297° Tory Island Light 21 miles course 245° at 24 knots. BURZA in company. (ECHO 1200/26 to C.in C. W.A.) BROKE and SARDONYX sailed (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1208/26 to Adty.) EMPRESS OF BRITAIN abandoned. Floating on an even keel. Fire subsiding but ship gutted out. Consider hull can be towed. Am picking up survivors and carrying asdic sweep. (ECHO 1640/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Trawlers PAYNTER, DRANCEY, CAPE ARGONA in company. ECHO and BURZA returning to Clyde with all survivors. Tugs SEAMAN, MARAUDER, THAMES, and RAIDER proceeding. (C.in C. W.A. 1949/26 to BROKE, CAIRO) BROKE and SARDONYX patrolling near Ship. Trawler returning to harbour (BROKE 2043/26 to C.in C. W.A.) ETA. Cumbrae 0715. BURZA in company with 200 survivors, 5 seriously injured, 8 dead. ECHO about 370 survivors, 7 seriously injured, 2 dead. CAPE ARGONA proceeding Londonderry with 4 women survivors of whom one seriously wounded. (ECHO 2205/26 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

AVANCE. N.O.I.C. Aberdeen reports enemy Seaplane fired Torpedo at Examination Vessel AVANCE at 1915/25 in Examination Anchorage, Aberdeen. Missed close astern. (C.in C. Rosyth 1157/26 to Adty.) Heinkel 115 returned and exchanged M.G. fire with AVANCE and disappeared to westward. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1231/26 to C.in C. Rosyth).

/ Chatham .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS
Enemy Air Activity.

Chatham. — Air Raid at 0130/26. Damage estimate £500. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1405/26)

Arbroath. — Air Raid P.M./25. Damage estimate £4000. (S.C.E. Arboath 1717/26).

Lossiemouth. — Banff reports Bombs on Lossiemouth Aerodrome at 1825. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1912/26 to Adty.)

Sheerness. — 952 Sqdn. R.A.F. reports that at 2035 three Bombs fell and exploded in area bounded by Balloon Drifters in following position. (X.D.O. Sheerness 2255/26 to C.in C. Nore).

LONDONDERRY — Bombed in 51° 42' N. 1° 21' E. 4 bombs no hits. One large explosion on Gunfleet Sands probably mine (LONDONDERRY 1104/26)

Mining.

Plymouth. — Closed, owing to suspected Minealying by A/C (C.in C. W.A. 0042/26).

Belfast. — Closed, owing to suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0156/26) Port now open to outward traffic only. Ships to keep to Searched Channel and anchorage forbidden in Belfast Lough Area. Inward bound Mail Steamers may enter if proceeding to berth (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1115/26) Port open to all inward Ships proceeding divert to berth and to outward Ships divert to sea. No Ship may anchor in Belfast Lough. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1301/26). Port of Saint Dennis now open and Ships may anchor in Bangor Bay, south of Swept Channel. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1545/26) LL detonated one large Red Mine 020° 17 cables from Greypoint. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1700/26 to Adty.)

Rosyth. — Approaches to Rosyth between 2° 52' W. and Forth Bridge are closed. Ports of Leith and Granton Approaches are closed. Methil open. (C.in C. Rosyth) 0421/26 to Adty.) Approaches to Rosyth between west gate Inchkeith and Forth Bridge are open. Ports of Leith and Granton are open. Precautions. Examination anchorage West of Inchkeith, and Granton Roads, are not clear. (C.in C. Rosyth 1301/26). Approach to Rosyth between West Gate Inchkeith and 2° 52' W. open. D.G. Range area closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1521/26 to Adty.)

/ Tyne .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Tyne.	Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by LL. at 0820 in 107° 4 cables of North Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0845/26 to D.M.S.) Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by LL. at 1005 in 124° 3½ cables of South Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1015/26 to D.M.S.)
Humber.	Magnetic Mine detonated by LL at 0010/25 in 102° 1.3 miles from Spurn Point Lighthouse (F.O. Humber 1050/26).
Hartlepool.	Closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1234/26) Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1244/26 to Adty.)
Swansea) Port Talbot)	Ports now closed owing to Magnetic Mines. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1711/26 to Adty.)
STROMBUS	Norwegian Oil-Refinery, 6549 tons. Mined in Swansea Bay at 1658. She is being beached. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1724/26 to Adty.) Amended position of casualty 112° 2.2 miles from Mumbles Lt. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1140/27).
Liverpool.	Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1725/26).
KATANGA.	Belgian, 5183 tons. Damaged by explosion, possibly Mine, about 3 cables 100° from Pillar Buoy, Queens Channel, at 1645. Possibility of internal explosion being investigated as position thoroughly swept and many vessels have been over and close to it. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1741/26 to Adty.) Hope bring ship into harbour A.M./28 Engine Room flooded. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1624/27). Docked and unloading cargo (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1535/28)
DOSINIA.	British Tanker, 8053 tons. Mined near Q 1. Black Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1857/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Badly damaged. Salvage doubtful. 4 injured, one seriously. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1624/27 to Adty.) Aground. Salvage in hand (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1535/28).
B.S.43.	Cancel my 2144/24 (ICARUS and IMPULSIVE to escort B.S.43) INTREPID and ICARUS will act as Escort (C.in C. Nore 1750/26 to D.20).
JERSEY) MACKAY)	Adty. 1433/25 and my 1510/25. Intend sail ships in company on 28/10 to arrive Plymouth 0745/29. (C.in C. Nore 2208/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Holder.	At 0703, five M/V's in 52°53' N. 3° 30' E. steering North at 12 to 14 knots. A/C report. (V.A.S. 1031/26 to S/M. H. 49).
Brest.	Apparently now 8 Destroyers. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1230/26 to H.Q.C.C.) Positions of 8 Destroyers confirmed. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2015/26 to H.Q.C.C.)
Emden.	18 M/V's in harbour, including a 600-foot Liner. Also 50 Barges. To be attacked by A/C on night 26/27. (H.Q.C.C.1400/26 to 16 Group North Coates).
Boulogne) Dunkirk) Ostend)	Shipping seen at 0845/26. P.I.U. 1500/26 to N.I.D.)
Off Hardanger.	Hatston A/C. report Danish M/V. POLAR FAIRD in 59° 52' N. 3° 54' W. steering 290° at 8 knots at 0824. (A.C.O.S. 1603/26 to Adty.)
Bordeaux) Gironde)	Warships and M/V's seen on 25/10. (P.I.U. 2325/26 to N.I.D.)

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

WOOLWICH	Boiler defects. (See South Atlantic).
CHULMLEIGH	Due Durban 22/10, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0905/26).
BEAGLE	Available for service during repairs, expected to complete p.m./29. (F.O., Greenock, 1204/26, F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1751/26).
BLYSKAWICA	Polish destroyer, in collision with trawler 5½ miles 140° Flada Light. Stern and steering gear damaged (ESCAPADE, 2100/26, BLYSKAWICA, 2204/26, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0032/27).
Destroyer aground.	SCHELDE to proceed Londonderry to refloat a destroyer aground there (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2333/26) SCHELDE sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0030/27).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys

O.B. 233 — To alter course at 1600 to avoid U/B. (C.in C. W.A., 1241/26)

S.L. 51. — 20 hours late at R.V. ALCANTARA to contact slow 51 at daylight 28/10, 2 portions of convoy combing at daylight 29/10. (ALCANTARA 0805/27) Route. (D.T.D. 1634/26).

O.A. and O.B. 234. — To join, position. (C.in C. W.A. to ROCHESTER, PRIMROSE, ARROW, etc., 1009/26).

S.C.9. — Date. Escort DEPTFORD. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1607/26).

F.N. and F.S. — Forecast of sailings and escorts (C.in C. Rosyth, 1103/26).

H.X. 81. — Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2315/26 to ABERDEEN, CALDWELL, WALKER, GLOXINIA, VANSITTART, CALENDULA, GARDENIA.)

Aircraft to Escort Ocean Convoys. — Ref. TD/N/2/413 and AMSI 164, as aircraft will from now on be co-operating with surface escorts of ocean convoys, ships in convoy are to be informed that they are not to open fire on aircraft at night when west of seven degrees west unless such aircraft are proved to be hostile. (D.T.D. 2115/26 to A.Z. Message 913)

F.N. and F.S. Removal of additional Escorts. — C.in C. Nore 2129/25. Regret possibility of additional escorts for FN and FS convoys between Aldeburgh Light Float and Outer Dowsing being removed. This area is a happy hunting ground for E Boats and comparative little success they have obtained has been largely due to the support C.in C. Nore has given. Ships in this area at night carry out the dual purpose of convoy protection and anti-invasion. Should they be reduced in number the Germans will quickly discover a further soft spot in our convoy system and exploit it to the full.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1117/26, to Admty.)

Shortage of Escort ships is fully appreciated and will be remedied as soon as resources permit. Ref. C.in C. Nore's final sentence, intention is to operate these convoys as nearly as possible on an eight day cycle. (D.A/S.W.2201/26).

W.S.4A. — Date of leaving U.K. and list. Ocean escort BERWICK and CORNWALL from Clyde. Fighter Command code word Olive. (D.O.D. (H) 2108/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Following information provided by Navy Department.

Enemy Intelligence. Reliable Officer in Spanish Destroyer CHURRUCA reports having sighted 6 days ago off Alicante French troop transports loaded to capacity headed for Africa.

Dakar. From Dakar. 19/10. CROIX sailed for Casablanca. 20/10 SINAIA, MARRAKECH, MARECHAL LYAUTEY and 3 other vessels arrived from Casablanca. Ships carried great amount War material and food supplies. Martial law ended in Dakar Community and feeling growing there that only hope for France lay in Colonies remaining solidly under Petain.

Far East. From Berlin. Unverified rumour from N.A. German ships in Chinese and Russian Ports ordered proceed quietly to Japanese Ports. 60 German Navy and Air Officers ordered to Japan to oversee selection and construction of fuel depots and bases. Material being sent in Chinese Junks to Saipan and Formosa.

STRASBOURG My 1745/21 these vessels reported to have returned to Toulon 22/10 after exercising in vicinity. (N.A. Washington, 1251/26).

Following received.

Intelligence Dakar. (contd.) (?Vichy 17/10. French Naval sources state that one group of Latecoere torpedo aircraft's moved to Dakar from Bizerta. Understood there are now at Dakar four groups of bombers particularly Glenn and totalling about 60 and one Curtiss pursuit group totalling about 15.

Dakar 24/10. Mainland forces at Dakar; battleship RICHELIEU; two cruisers; five destroyers two submarines three flying boats and auxiliary vessels. 40 Martin bombers and at least 32 Curtiss pursuit planes based Oualsan and Thies.

Beyrout. Beyrout 18/10. Two French ships left yesterday with 5500 reservists on board. Two additional convoys, each about same capacity, are expected to evacuate reservists shortly.

Saigon. Saigon 21/10. French war vessels LAMOTTE PIQUET and ADMIRAL CHARNER left Saigon for Camranh Bay for manoeuvres. D'ARTAGNAN sailed for Manila and Kobe.

/ German Appeasement. .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued)

German Appeasement. Vichy 23/10. Understood outlines of a modus vivendi between Germany and Vichy Government were in principle definitely agreed. French Fleet will be employed ostensibly to insure freedom of communications between France and Northern Africa. Control of French Ports in Mediterranean and North Africa will apparently be given to Germany. (N.A. Washington, 1500/26 to Admty.)

ALBI Scuttled. DELHI's 1951/25. Intend crew of ALBI be handed over to Duala authorities for interrogation and custody. Leclerc proposed to give same guarantee as in case of crew of TOUAREG but requests help in carrying out repatriation (C.S.1 to Admty., 1701 A/26).

DEVONSHIRE DELHI Until situation clarifies, consider I should remain in touch with Leclerc. No accommodation available locally. Intend DEVONSHIRE to relieve DELHI on patrol on 28/10 and transfer my flag temporarily to latter. (C.S.1 to Admty., 1718 A/26).

DELHI Supplies of fuel and stores. Request early opportunity of visiting Lagos to take in provisions, give leave and clean boiler. (DELHI, 2307/26).

North Atlantic.

Air Reconnaissance. Daily Summary Operations (200 Group, 1701/26). No incidents.

ARK ROYAL
GLASGOW
Destroyers.
PASTEUR. Admty. 2156/24 C.in C. W.A. to sail ARK ROYAL, DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, ISIS and PASTEUR to Gibraltar on 30/10.
C.in C. H.F. to sail GLASGOW as necessary to R/V with above.
C.in C. W.A. to arrange escorts R/V and routeing.
On arrival at Gibraltar, ARK ROYAL is to rejoin Force 'H', GLASGOW is to be attached temporarily to Force 'H' and destroyers are to join 13th D.F.
Fighter Command Code Word ROBIN.
PASTEUR is to be sailed for U.K. as soon as possible after disembarking.
(D.O.D.(H) 2109/26).

Spanish Shipping, Italian U/B Attacks. Admty. 2321/25. Following is translation of text of document. (Refers to orders to S/M Group Commander, Augusta, that ships flying Spanish flag belonging to Ybarra and Pinillos Shipping Companies leaving Casablanca and proceeding towards Lisbon are to be attacked without warning.) (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty. 0148/26).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

PENNLAND
WESTERNLAND
CARNARVON CASTLE

Your 1844/25. As all movements of troops and ships have already started and PENNLAND cannot be delayed, intend subject to concurrence of C.in C. East Indies that movements of H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE and WESTERNLAND shall proceed as arranged.
As C.in C. East Indies will provide escort from Cape, H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE will be freed earlier. (C.in C. S.A., 0946/26, to Admty.
Concur your 0946, (C.in C. E.I. 1846/26).

WOOLWICH

Boiler defects. Essential to have 36 hours at both Capetown and Durban. Appears will be unable to continue with W.S.3. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0830 Z/26).
Your 2339/18 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0830/26. W.S.3 is not to be delayed on account of WOOLWICH. If no escort available may be sailed unescorted as far as Aden. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. S.A. 2304/26).

CHULMLEIGH

Overdue shipping, due Durban 22/10 from Brisbane, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0905/26).

W.S. 4A

My 2326/10. An A.M.C. may be required to take over escort of W.S.4A from Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. S.A. and E.I. 2006/26).

SOTRA)
SOIKA)
SARNA)
SVANA)

On leaving Ponta Delgada to proceed to Bathurst, not St. Vincent as previously ordered. Not to pass within 200 miles of French territory. (Hd. of M., to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2010/26).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Capetown departure 1335/26, ROYAL SOVEREIGN for Freetown by direct route in accordance your 1305/15. Date of arrival. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown to C.in C. S.A. 1340/26).

FRANCONIA.

Sailed for Clyde 1400/25. 112 troops, 87 naval ratings, etc. (N.O.I.C. Freetown, 2025 N/26).

Mediterranean.

RAINBOW
TRIAD
Overdue

RAINBOW and TRIAD are now overdue since 19/10 and 20/10 respectively and must be considered lost.
TRIAD has not been in company with Capt. S) 1 yet. List is as she left U.K. subject to any amendment by F.O.C.N.A., or V.A. Malta.
Italian press claimed U Boat TOTI sank a Perseus class Submarine on 14/10 which may have been RAINBOW. Nothing is known of TRIAD's loss. Both S/Ms. were ordered to patrol off Gulf of Taranto returning to

/Alexandria .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

RAINBOW
TRIAD
Overdue
(Contd.)

Alexandria along Libya Coast.
RAINBOW was directed into Straits at Otranto for a few days. (C.in C. Med., 0943/26.)

Enemy
Unit.

Reconnaissance 167(?). At 0055 G.M.T./26 enemy warship, type unknown escorting 2 or more steamships, was hove to off coast of Sicily probably on an approx. bearing 024° from Malta. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 0941/26, to Capt. i/c Malta).

Greek
Co-operation.

A.T. 1742/7. Need for suitable recognition signals. Suggestions. (C.in C. Med., 1206/26).

Air
Operations
APHIS

M.E. Operational Summary No. 138 up to 1200 hours 26/10. Para 1 Egypt.
Attacks continued on enemy forward positions in Western Desert and rear bases with following results night 24/25/10 0245 hours 1 Blenheim 211 Squadron bombed enemy position at Maktila from 6000 feet in co-operation with bombardment from sea by APHIS. 2 flares were dropped and incendiaries straddled target starting large fires petrol dump believed ignited. Day 25/10 following attacks made on Tobruk. 0835 hours 4 Blenheims 55 Squadron with 2 Blenheims 84 Squadron dropped bombs among M.T. and supply dumps on north end of aerodrome. Intense A.A. fire experienced 1 enemy fighter was shot down down unconfirmed over Tobruk Blenheim 84 Squadron forced landed 45 miles West Mersa Matruh crew safe. 9 Blenheims 113 Squadron straddled North Foreshore with bombs demolishing buildings in Naval Barracks Area.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/26).

Enemy
Intelligence
ZAFFIRO

Information received from Turkish General Staff concerning Leros. Reliable source dated 22/10. Naval Stores formerly at Lapetha Cove moved to Critani village south side of Alinda Bay owing to British bombing, now stowed in private houses.
Submarines ZAFFIRO, BEILUL, JALEA four to five days overdue.
One other Italian submarine sunk off Leros cause and name unknown.
(H.A. Angora, 1302/26).

/ Convoy Reports .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Convoy Reports.	Fully in agreement with C.in C. East Indies 1320/25. Publicity concerning movements of convoys can only have harmful effect as has been demonstrated both in Red Sea and Mediterranean. Italians must have a shrewd idea we are building up supplies and troops in the Middle East and the more he has to give rein to a probable apprehensive imagination the better. (C.in C. Med., 1649/26).
Italian Bombs.	Italians using small incendiary bomb. Description. (D.U.B.D. Admty. General Message 1303/26).
Aircraft, Malta.	Your 1133/25. 1 E. of 431 Flight increased to 7 and sufficient Glen Martins to fill this establishment with reserves being flown out to Malta. First aircraft expected to leave tonight. (D.N.A.D. to C.in C. Med., 1625/26).
Shipping Intelligence, Leakage.	Precautions necessary to prevent leakage of shipping intelligence to enemy through Japanese channels. Arrangements. (Hd.of M. 1750/26, to C.in C's Med., E.I., China, etc.)
Malta, Reinforcement.	Plans for reinforcing Malta (military). (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1838/26). Reply of C.in C. giving date, etc. (C.in C. Med., 2205/26) (See Mediterranean Volume).
W.S.3. DORSETSHIRE	Your 1122/23, movements of Red Sea convoys. Approved for W.S.3 slow and fast to merge from point of overtaking and to be escorted by DORSETSHIRE to Suez. On arrival Suez, DORSETSHIRE to sail for Durban to rest until required to take over escort of W.S.4 B from CUMBERLAND. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. E.I., 2359/26).
Dodecanese Supplies	Food shortage. Suggesting Greeks place obstacles to Italian exports from Tijani (Wolfson, Beyoglu, to C.in C. Med., 1745/26).
	A.T. 2051/25. Available information suggests following:-
Italian Shipping Routes.	(a) Direct routes from Messina Otranto or Sicily do not appear to be used except by hospital ships. (b) Considered majority of traffic passes to the Westward of Sicily and Lampedusa thence via Tripoli (Africa) to

/ Benghazi .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Italian Shipping Routes. (contd.)

Benghazi.
(c) Submarine patrols on Sicilian coast and South of Gulf of Taranto have drawn blanks except for occasional warship sightings.
(d) Submarine patrols have been maintained off Benghazi and off Misusata without result. Recent capture enemy coastal route information hoped to give better results.
(e) Reconnaissances show that ships do enter and leave Benghazi but no evidence to show that there is even as much traffic as must be necessary to maintain troops already in Libya.
(f) Results have been obtained against coastal traffic from Benghazi to Derna and Tobruk but this now seems to have almost ceased. Our submarines and aircraft have taken toll of their traffic and R.A.F. and F.A.A. have done much to make Tobruk untenable. Route has also been (? mined) in three places.
(g) Not considered that enemy move large convoys. One two or three ships with one destroyer are common. (C.in C. Med., 2233/26).

My 2233/26. Add paragraph (H). Above must be regarded as largely supposition as there is insufficient evidence to form a firm opinion. (C.in C. Med. 0933/27).

East Indies.

QUEEN MARY
AQUITANIA
MAURETANIA

Your 1921/5. Request confirmation they are to return to Sydney on completion of discharging at Bombay. (F.S.T.O. Bombay to D. of S.T. 0402 Z/26).

NEPTUNE

Result of search of Southern Ocean islands 11/10 to 21/10. (NEPTUNE, 0503 Z/26). General remarks (NEPTUNE, 1416 Z/26), ar East. (C.in C. E.I., 0642/26).

SHROPSHIRE
KANDAHAR

Expect to arrive at 0900/26. (SHROPSHIRE 0601 Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Aden).

MOGAMIGAWA MARU.

My 1029/15. Intercepted letter discloses loaded unlicensed opium at Bushire night of 1-2/10, distination believed Far East. (C.in C. E.I. 0642/26).

/ PAN EUROPE. .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

PAN EUROPE intercepted by NEPTUNE. — N.O.i/c Simonstown's 0927 2/10. It is confirmed NEPTUNE intercepted PAN EUROPE. Her position, course speed and appearance all indicated she was the vessel referred to in Admiralty 0146/8. (NEPTUNE, 0505/26).

GNAT. — S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0600/25. Intended programme. (GNAT, 1420/26).

A.710 26/10.
Daily Intelligence Summary No.136 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500/26/10. 3 Blenheims, 8 Squadron individual bombing Assab 0525 (1) Workshops, 4 250's in target area. (2) Naval headquarters large bombs near misses small bombs in naval barracks. (3) Low dive bombing attack on vessel between Field 36 and Umm Al Baher Island, nearest bomb approx. 4 yards. Blenheims 203 Squadron fighter escort for convoy B.S.7 using Kamaran as advanced base. 2 Gladiators 94 Squadron standing patrol Aden 0720 to 0845. No casualties, all times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1947/26).

China.

I. 67 Japanese. — Japanese Submarine. Officially announced today lost with all hands in Tokyo Bay, 22/8/40. (N.A. Tokyo, 1012/26).

Singapore Conference. — Comdr. A.C. Thomas, U.S.N., to attend as observer, (unofficially) (1 S.L., 1531/26).

America and West Indies.

Suspicious W/T. IMGN VLASSOPOL — Your 1433/17. Rumanian IMGN VLASSOPOL investigated. Results. (N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. 1246/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SVANEFJELL — Late Norwegian, may pass your latitude northbound tonight or tomorrow. (V.A.S. to Netherlands S/M O.24, 1011/26).

USARAMO — Left Vigo a.m./23, reported (D.4) in Corcubion Bay, Cape Finisterre, 25/10. (D.D.I.C. 1015/26 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

KARNAK. — B.3 report, will leave tonight possibly for Ferrol for overhaul. (Consul, Vigo, 2042/26).

VANCOUVER, PATRICIA, HENRY FORN — Curacoa reports prize ships renamed CURACAO, ARUBA and BONAIRE respectively. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1036/26).

CORDELIA, ARCADIA, ITHAKA — Left Caltaz 23/10 in ballast for Russia. (D.S. 417).

SALZBURG — Arrived Galatz 23/10 from Istanbul with general cargo. (D.S. 417).

SAARLAND. — Shanghai report, sold to Mitsubishi, Tokyo, in August. (D.S. 417).

NORDERNEY — Pernambuco report 24/10 that 1000 tons of coal being shipped in Brazilian AFFONSO PENNA, due Para 30/10, presumably for NORDERNEY (D.S.417).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AEQUITAS. — Brazilian Government have notified intention to move Italian AEQUITAS refugee at Ceara, to Rio de Janeiro where her cargo coal consigned Rio de Janeiro and paid for is badly needed. They are prepared to put Brazilian Naval Officer on board for voyage if desirable. I warned Chief of Naval Staff that ship remains liable to capture unless properly interned for duration or unless H.M.G. makes special case. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1808/26).

REX, CONTE DI SAVOIA — Reported merchant shipping laid up in Istria Channel has been moved. REX was recently reported at Pola and CONTE DI SAVOIA at Venice. (D.S. 418).

MOST SECRET.

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MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FISCUS
SNEFJELD
THALIA
(torpedoed in S.C.7.)

Survivors landed by CLEMATIS state that FISCUS British SNEFJELD Norwegian, and THALIA Greek, were sunk on 18/10 and 19/10. Survivors were picked up on 23/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 2125/26).

SNEFJELD, Norwegian, 1644 tons, torpedoed and sunk on 18/10. 21 survivors, including four wounded, landed at Methil 26/10. (D.S. 418).

Submarines Reported.

0304. D.F. probably U/B 58° N., 6° E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0942/26).

1607. Am over enemy submarine in 55.52 N., 8.47 W. (Aircraft 502 Sqdn., 1607/26) (A.C. W.A. 1803/26).

1657. One Italian U/B, course 295°, 46.38 N., 10.20 W. (URSULA, 1657/26)

1447. 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W. at 1447/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/27).

1450. 55.05 N., 8.25 W., reported by aircraft. Boat with 2 men seen close by. (D.S. 418).

1107. 58° N., 13° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 418).

1119. 58° N., 6.20 E., position indefinite. (D.S. 418).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 1 reported to be Italian was in 46° 38' N. 10° 20' W. at 1657/26 course 295°.

German - Possibly 1 W. of Ireland moving northwards.
Probably 1 in area 58° to 60° N. and W. of 20° W.
1 may have been in 55° 52' N. 8° 47' W. at 1604/26.
1 was possibly off Torglass Island 6 miles S.W. of Bloody Foreland at 1450/26, communicating with shore.
2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 in Skagerrak about 48 miles W. of the Skaw at 0938/27 homeward bound; may be damaged.
(D.D.I.C. 1226/27).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1600. By aircraft 55.52 N., 08.47 W. (Aircraft 502 Sqdn., 1807/26, C.in C. W.A., 1801/26) ARROW and ROCHESTER informed. (C.in C. W.A., 2137/26).
Aircraft report from Aldergrove (begins).
To C.in C. W.A. from SHIKARI
Your 1801/26. Attack by aircraft was seen. Bomb falling close to feather which in the prevailing sea looked like a periscope feather. Similar feathers were seen at the same time over a large arc. These were porpoises. A/S Sweep was carried out within five minutes of aircraft attack.
Porpoise noises only heard. Aircraft informed accordingly. (Ends.) T.O.O. 2056/26. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1830/27).

Italian.

ZAFFIRO)
EEILUL)
JALEA)
Reported overdue. (See Mediterranean, Enemy Intelligence).

Forbidden Area. Surface ships are not to attack submarines unless hostile identity is established in the area enclosed by the following positions:-
60° 50' N. 01° 10' W. 60° 50' N. 0° 40' W. 61° 50' N. 0° 20' W. 61° 50' N. 01° 30' W. from 2300/27 until further notice.
(D.O.D. (H) 1710/26)

Assessments. Your 1112/21. Assessment of attacks made by Force H and North Atlantic Command will be made by Admiralty.
All other attacks in Mediterranean should be assessed by you, assessments given in para.2 of my 1727/21 being used.
Your assessments are requested on the following aircraft attacks:-

Date	Aircraft	Position	Reference
(a) 5th July	813 Squadron	Tobruk	Your 1931-6th July.
(b) 12th July	228 Squadron	36° 48' N. 15° 54' E.	H.Q. Med's.1816 13th July.
(c) 12th July	201 Group	30' South of Cotrone.	H.Q. Med's.1655 12th July.

(D. A/S.W. 1716/27 to C.in C. Med.) (698)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyers Sweep to intercept M.V's	VANOC, VOLUNTEER and FERNIE left Portsmouth at 2145 today to intercept 8 camouflaged motor vessels of 500 tons which were reported off the Cotentin Peninsula steering 80° at 10 knots.
SWORDFISH attacks	SWORDFISH attacked this convoy this evening off Cherbourg and estimated one hit.
ARETHUSA Damaged	ARETHUSA was damaged early this morning in collision with a ship in Convoy E.N.12 North of Kinnaird Head. Repairs will take about 3 weeks.
Shipping in N.W. Approaches	C. in C. Western Approaches has made certain proposals to minimise the danger of air attack on fast single ships, based on the experience of attacks to date in the N.W. Approaches and North Channel
Enemy Intelligence	The main trend of merchant shipping in the Channel ports today was eastwards. This is the first considerable movement seen going east.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Flushing, Anterp and Calais were attacked with success last night. Bremen shipyards docks at Cuxhaven, Hamburg and an unidentified dockyard in North West Germany were attacked, but results were not seen.

13 mine sweepers 12 miles north of Terschelling were bombed, one bomb bursting under the stern of one of the vessels.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.B. 234 was attacked in 55° 56' N., 12° 10' W., this morning. ALFRED JONES (5013 tons) was hit.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

2 Hampdens last night laid mines in the Gironde Estuary.

Enemy aircraft minelaying activity was fairly continuous between 2100/26 and 0100/27, extending from the Thames Estuary to the Firth of Forth, and being more intense in the Forth to Hartlepool area.

SS MARGARETHA (Dutch 325 tons) was mined and sunk in the Bristol Channel this morning.

PERSEVERE, a small motor boat, tender to X D O Inchkeith was mined and sunk this afternoon off the Firth of Forth.

A steam drifter was seen to blow up off the Humber this afternoon.

SS SAVVITY, in Convoy F.S. 21 was mined this evening to the eastward of Hartlepool.

Ports affected by minelaying today were Swansea, Port Talbot, Sunderland, Blyth, Humber, Cardiff, Avonmouth, Barry, Newport, Leith, Plymouth, Rosyth, Milford Haven and Tyne. The two latter are closed. Rosyth approach channel is closed between 2° 52' W., and East Gate Inchkeith. Liverpool was opened at 1118.

MOST SECRET

27.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

General de Gaulle has asked that the blockade of Libreville shall be vigorously enforced, for the reason given in his 1305/27.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD left Gibraltar today to patrol off the Azores.

South Atlantic

In view of their liability to submarine attack, ships, too slow for convoy, which can reach the U.K. from the Cape without refuelling are not to be routed direct to U.K., but are to put into Freetown, where they will be included in a slow convoy if possible.

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

F.A.A. attack Tobruk

C.in C. Mediterranean reports that on 24/10 14 aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE attacked Tobruk. Four aircraft carried out high levelbombing to distract attention from the remainder who laid mines in the harbour entrance.
The operation was entirely successful.

Operation MAG. 2. Attack on Maltezana by F.A.A.

8 Aircraft from EAGLE attacked Maltezana today and claim to have hit and set on fire a hangar. The seaplane shipway was hit and it is thought an ammunition dump exploded. All aircraft returned safely. There was no enemy air activity.

East Indies.

C.in C. E.I. reports that the Italian destroyer hit by a bomb by R.A.F. on 21/10 one mile East of Harmil Island was not the FRANCESCO NULLO, which was blown up by KIMBERLEY some hours earlier and is definitely sunk. The destroyer may have sunk or been removed by the Italians.

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. Adty. 1819/25 and 1310/26. In future M/S Trawlers are not to be employed on A/P Patrol unless ordered by C.in C. Rosyth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1129/27 to N.O.I.C. Leith).

Escort for S/M's in Convoy waters. Experience shows that submarines in Convoy are an embarrassment to the local escort in the event of U Boat attack on the convoy are in danger of being attacked by escort and convoy, having regard to present U Boat tactics.
2. It is considered submarines should pass through convoy waters with a separate escort and then proceed independently to a pre-arranged rendezvous again outside convoy waters.
3. There is no objection to the present system of submarines proceeding independently up the English Channel.
(C.in C. W.A. 1844/27 to Adty.)

Bombing of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN.

Defence of Fast Single M/V's against Air Attack. Consider that steps should be taken to minimise danger of air attack on fast single ships.
2. Available information shows that -
(a) only 5 air attacks on shipping in the N.W. Approaches and North Channel have been carried out at night. All of these were in moonlight.
(b) Long range enemy aircraft usually make the Fastnet about 40 minutes before sunrise before proceeding Northwards.
3. Propose that fast single incoming ships should make Rathlin Island at dawn and outgoing ships make it at dusk. Also that sufficient Coastal Command fighters to provide escort for at least one ship throughout each day should be stationed at Aldergrove. When these are provided it will be possible to transfer the zone through which ships pass during the night further West.
(C.in C. W.A. 1922/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ARK ROYAL. Intend sail ARK ROYAL escorted by DUNCAN, ISIS, and FEARLESS at 0700/28 for Clyde. ETA will be reported later. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1045/27 to Adty.) Adty. 2109/26. Route from Clyde to Gibraltar. (C.in C. W.A. 1710/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

SALOPIAN, LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS. Movements and Routes. (F.O.C. N.P. 1048/27).

CHITRAL. Leave Clyde 1300/29. Route to Reykjavik. Speed 13 knots. (F.O.C. N.P. 1050/27).

LINNET. Intend LINNET bound for Clyde to join EN.13 at Scapa R/V. (A.C.O.S. 1144/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

Nore. Movements to 1200/28. (C.in C. Nore 1200/27).

EDINBURGH D.4 is to sail one Destroyer to R/V with EDINBURGH passing Tyne Pier Heads at 1600/29 to provide A/S Escort to Rosyth (C.in C. H.F. 1211/27 to D.4.)

BURNHAM, BROADWATER, BRADFORD, BURWELL. Sail Ships tomorrow for Plymouth so as to pass Hartland Point at 0730/29. (C.in C. W.A. 1260/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Portsmouth. Movements for Night 27/28. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1407/27).

Western Approaches. Situation at 2000/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1427/27 and 1451/27).

Orkneys. Trawler Line tonight. (A.C.O.S.1536/27).

KIPLING. Route to be followed beyond Dover. (C.in C. W.A. 1722/27 to C.in C. Nore, and C.in C. Nore 2029/27 to KIPLING).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols O and T. On 27, 28, and 29/10. (C.in C. Nore 0910/27 to D.16, D. 21, AURORA).

Iceland. R.N.F.U. has completed installation of coast defence batteries (Alabaster 1243/27).

M.T.B's on Dutch and Belgian Coasts. Weather permitting, 70-foot M.T.B's to operate tonight. Any vessel sighted East of 2° 10' E. and South of 51° 45' N. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 0940/27 to BEEHIVE). M.T.B's 22, 31, 34 leave Harwich P.M./27 (C.in C. Nore 1200/27). My 0940. Operate from Ostend to Hook of Holland (C.in C. Nore 1909/27 to M.T.B. 22).

M.T.B's between Boulogne and Dunkirk. Intend to sail M.T.B's 70 and 5 at 2000 today to operate between Boulogne and Dunkirk AW Buoy returning Dover about 0200/28. (V.A. Dover 1231/27 to Adty.) M.T.B's will not operate to Eastward of 2° E. (V.A. Dover 1745/27 to Adty.)

PATROCLUS) LAURENTIC) My 1046/27 is cancelled. Ships to carry out a sweep from their areas on course 065° as far as 11° West, and thence return to patrol. Object, to intercept German Tanker GEDANIA known to be proceeding Northwards. Position of URSULA at 0700/27. (F.O.C. N.F. 1800/27).

North Atlantic Suspicious Vessel. Suspicious vessel following s.s. MAHOUT in 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. (Valentia Radio 1710 and 1726/27). My position 50° 38' N. 23° 2' W. course North, speed 27 knots. Am closing MAHOUT. (Corrupt group). Shall I continue. (CORNWALL 1935 Z/27 to C.in C. W.A.) Have you anything further to report regarding suspicious vessel (C.in C. W.A. 2217/27 to MAHOUT).

8 M/V's off Cape Barfleur. VANOC, VOLUNTEER and FERNIE have been ordered to intercept 8 motor vessels 5,000 tons reported in position 49° 45' N. 1° 20' W. at 1615, course 080° speed 10 knots. Sailed at 2145. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2157/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

SEAWOLF. Report on Lines Fiord, Fro Havet, etc. (V.A.S. 0001/27 to Adty.)

TUNA, TALISMAN. TUNA proceed to Patrol Area. TALISMAN reports unsuccessful attack on Italian U-Boat in 45° 49' N. 1° 43' W. at 0645/22. 5 unexploded Torpedoes 183° 6 miles from that position. (Capt. S.2. 0346/27 to S/M's Area B).

UTMOST. Intend sail at 1530/28 for Gibraltar. Route. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1027/27).

Bombing Information. My 1126/2. Lorient. (V.A.S. 1614/27).

Portsmouth. Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/27).

CACHALOT, TAKU. Your 0944/27. If U boat movements seem unlikely between 29th and 1st November, propose CACHALOT patrol in vicinity of 45° 51'N. 04° 44'W. from daylight 29th and TAKU south east of Belle Isle from p.m. 29th. (S.2. 1943/27 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity.

Convoy ARENA. Fighters being sent now. (Whitehall W/T 1132/27).

Boulogne. Barges to be destroyed on Night 27/28 by Aircraft of 812 Sqdn. (H.Q.C.C. 1616/27).

Protection of Convoy SL.51. In view of the attack on EMPRESS OF BRITAIN Admiralty regard it as important that Convoy S.L. 51 should be given adequate air protection during daylight on 29th October. Request you arrange with Coastal Command accordingly. (D.T.D. 1619/27 to C.in C.W.A.)

Rosyth Area. Air Escorts tomorrwo (C.in C. Rosyth 1842/27)

Finnish S.S. ESTHER THORSEN recently released from Tromso reports that when port was bombed by British aircraft October 16th vessel was nearly hit but no actual damage caused in harbour and it is though that she was mistaken for German transport. Members of the crew state during earlier raid by a single plane direct hit was scored on oil tanks and on Anti aircraft batteries on shore. (Petsamo 1529/27 to D.N.I).

Note by D.N.I. - Further details have been asked for.

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Wick Aerodrome. 2 A/C dropped about 6 H.E. Bombs at 1830/26. Some damage, no casualties. Also machine-gunned main street. 2 houses demolished, 3 civilians killed, 2[0] injured. (A.C.O.S. 0109/27 to Adty.)

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN. Fire fierce. Hull glowing. Consider salvage only possible after some days if fire burns out. (CAIRO 0402/27 to C.in C. W.A.) No Tug arrived ship by 0530, but were passed outward off Tory Island at 1930/26. (CAIRO 0620/27 to C.in C. W.A.) ECHO and BURZA arrived Tyne with about 570 survivors (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0829/27 to Adty.) Your 1230/27. Proceed with EMPRESS OF BRITAIN towards North Channel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1555/27 to MARAUDER, THAMES, BROKE).

Master of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN reports he was struck by five bombs and bridge and upper decks machine gunned in four attack made by a very large four engined enemy bomber, whilst 70 miles north west of Donegal Bay at 0920/26. First bomb hit the main lounge which immediately took fire and dense clouds of black smoke quickly spread throughout ship. Speed was increased to 24 knots when the aircraft was recognised as hostile and exaggerated zig-zag was ordered. The three Lewis guns hit the aircraft repeatedly and the H.A. gun aft prevented the enemy from being even more successful than he was, and, in opinion of Master, was largely instrumental in enabling such a large proportion of the passengers and crew to be saved. The complement was 643 of which approximately 580 survivors have been landed at Greenock and 10 bodies. Master is of the opinion that 10 other persons were either suffocated or killed on board by the explosions and he inspected at least a further five bodies in the sea. Further survivors should be landed at Belfast later today. When ship was last seen by Captain, the fire was spreading forward, but it did not appear as if the oil fuel has become ignited. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1709/27 to Adty.)

Request Inquiry at Glasgow into bombing and damaging of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN calling witnesses now at Glasgow. F.O.I.C. Glasgow concurs. (C.in C. W.A. 2212/27 to C.in C. Rosyth).

/ Convoy O.B. 234. .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

Convoy O.B. 234. — Convoy OMSET being attacked by Aircraft in 55° 56' N. 12° 10' W. (Portland W/T 0954/27). 2 Blenheims sent (C.in C. W.A. 1030/27 to CAIRO)

S.S. ALFRED JONES hit — S.S. ALFRED JONES hit. (C.in C. W.A. 0055/28).

Chatham. — At 1945/23 one Bomb fell in No. 1 Basin. Assume no damage. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1101/27 to Civil Lord).

Mining.

Swansea) Port Talbot) — Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0017/28). My 1711/26. Swansea and Port Talbot all now open. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0953/27).

Sunderland. — Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 0045/27). Port open. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1445/27).

Blyth. — Closed till completion of sweeping about 1430. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0300/27). Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1405/27).

Humber. — Closed. A/C mining. (F.O. Humber 0443/27) Humber open. (F.O. Humber 0941/27).

Cardiff) Avonmouth) Barry) Newport) — Closed, owing to Mines. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0924/27). Ports now open. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1554/27).

Leith. — Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (C.in C. Rosyth 0937/27). Port open, and is to be approached as in my 1301/26. (C.in C. Rosyth 1235/27).

Plymouth. — Cancel 2204/26. Port open. (C.in C. W.A. 1054/27). Plymouth closed owing to Minelaying. (C.in C. W.A. 2040/27).

Liverpool. — Cancel my 1725/26. Port now open. Anchorage prohibited in area given in my 0950/26. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1118/27). Following area considered clear. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1400/27).

S.N. 10 A. — Cancel my 1225/22. (R.A.M.L. 1227/27 to Adty.)

East Coast. — QZS. 40 unsafe owing to Mines between 3' E. of Sheringham Buoy to about 563 Buoy. (FRANKLIN 1235/27 to Adty.)

Yarmouth. — Your 1206/20. Trials begin to-night. Search begins from No.5 Buoy at 2330/27 and W. side of QZS. 30 will be searched.

/ E. side of ...

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

Yarmouth (contd.)	E. side of QZS. 30 on Trawlers return North, anchoring off Lowestoft during day. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1455/27 to C.in C. Nore). My 1550. COBBERS reports having sunk another Mine of same type near 60 Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1715/27 to C.in C. Nore) Particulars of Mine and Aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1550/27 to C.in C. Nore).
Rosyth.	My 1521/26. Both sides of Channel may now be used. (C.in C. Rosyth 1301/27). Approach channel between 2° 52' W. and East Gate Inchkeith is closed owing to suspected Minelaying. (C.in C. Rosyth 2301/27 to Adty.) Methil is open. (C.in C. Rosyth 2335/27 to Adty.)
Humber.	H.M. Tug DILIGENT reports Steam Drifter seen to blow up about 53° 33' N. 0° 15' E. One man picked up, died, and body landed Methil. Drifter not identified. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1631/27 to F.O.I.C. Humber)
PERSEVERE.	Small M.B., tender to X.D.O. Inchkeith, mined and sunk at 1450/27 in 50 to 100 yards 074° East Gunnet Ledge Buoy. Crew of two saved. Area had been swept for North polarity by Baby LL. (C.in C. Rosyth 1747/27 to Adty.)
Harwich.	One Mine exploded in 52° 5' N. 1° 49' E. Fleet Sweepers began clearance of 148 QZS near 54A. Buoy. Curtailed by anti-sweeping devices. Clearance continues tomorrow (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1928/27 to Adty.) Request Air Cover 0830 to 1730. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2118/27 to C.in C. Nore).
SUAVITY.	British, 634 tons. Mined in 54° 44' N. 1° 5' W. Afloat, but engine-room disabled. STEFNEY standing by. Request Tug. (WOOLSTON 2112/27 to C.in C. Rosyth).
Milford Haven.	Closed. Suspected Magnetic Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2144/27).
Tyne.	Closed, owing to suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2303/27).
MARGARETHA.	(Dutch 325 tons) mined in 51° 21' 51" N. 3° 12' 18" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1200/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

Shipping Routine and Situation at Calo.	(N.A. Stockholm 1244/26 to D.N.I.)
Enemy Unit.	Probably small Surface Vessel at 1529. B.S.T. in 58° 17' N. 3° 5' E. D/F report. (D.D.I.C. 1632/27 to C.in C. H.F.)
8 M/V's.	8 camouflaged M/V's 5000 tons in 49° 45' N. 1° 20' W. steering 080° at 10 knots at 1615. (SWORDFISH 1800/27 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
Enemy Light Forces.	D/F indications at 2048 B.S.T. that German Light Forces are operating between Cherbourg and Isle of Wight. (D.D.I.C. 2222/27 to C.in C. Portsmouth). (C.in C. Portsmouth 2246/27 to VANOC, VOLUNTEER, FERNIE, KIPLING, and C.C. W.A. 2355/27 to KELVIN, JACKAL).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BURWELL. Your 1250/27. Owing to defects in steering-engine steam pipe cannot be sailed tomorrow. Estimated time for repairs 6 days. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2250/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

ARETHUSA. Have had minor collision with unknown merchant ship in convoy H N 12 in position 068° 03' N. 002° 12' W. at 0323. Merchant ship appeared undamaged. Have slight damage to stem. C.in C. H.F. C. in C. Rosyth and C S 2 have been informed. (ARETHUSA 1645/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

27/10/40

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Situation at 2000/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1427/27).

H.M.26.

LEDA, KELLETT and ALBURY to sweep ahead during passage from Duncanby Head to Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1001/27).

H.X.81.

To alter course to avoid U-boat. (C.in C. W.A., 1121/27, to VOLTAIRE). VOLTAIRE to leave and return to base. (C.in C. W.A. 1245/27). Your 1245/27. Noon position H.X. 81. Commodore, Vice-Commodore, and 25 other ships in company. (VOLTAIRE, 1434 Z/27). Intend to R.V. H.X. 81 at 1600/28. Position. (WALKER, 1747/27). Position of H.X. 81 at 1200/27. (C.in C. W.A., 2237/27).

S.C.8.

STURDY and SHIKARI to meet. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 1145/27) SCIMITAR to join. (SCIMITAR 1015/27).

O.L.10.

SALOPIAN to leave Clyde (date) with O.L.10. (F.O.C.N.P. 1048/27).

E.N.13.

LINNET for Clyde to join at Scapa R.V. (A.C.O.S., 1144/27).

S.L.51.

20 hours late at R.V. ALCANTARA proceeding to contact. Position. (ALCANTARA 0805/27).

In view of attack on EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, Admty. regard it important S.L.51 should be given adequate air protection during daylight 29/10. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1619/27). Meet SL.51, 61 ships, ALCANTARA, 0815/29. (C.in C. W.A. to ARROW, ROCHESTER, AMAZON, PRIMROSE, HEARTSEASE, GERANIUM, 1603/27).

F.N. 21.

S.O. of escort, LONDONDERRY ordered not to pass No. 5 Buoy until 2130. (C.in C. Nore, 1630/27. 1816/27) Norwegian destroyer DRAUG to join. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1601/27).

F.S. 20.

Escort WESTMINSTER, ELGIN, SALTASH (C.in C. Nore 1630/27).

O.B. 235.

VETERAN vice WIVERN as escort (C.in C. W.A., 1827/27) CAMELIA and HONEYSUCKLE to join. (C.in C. W.A. 1845/27).

H.G. 45.

Arrived escorted by MALLOW, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1309/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville Patrol. No objection now to occasional sighting from shore of Cruisers on patrol but times and places of closing coast should be varied widely. Seaward reconnaissance will be done more openly. French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE and CAP DES PALMES only in Libreville 26/10. (F.O.C. 1 C.S. 1853A/27 to DELHI).

DELHI DEVONSHIRE. My 1718/26. Intend relief of DELHI and temporary transfer of flag now to take place, 29/10. (F.O.C. 1 C.S.,2235/27).

Libreville Blockade. Tel. W.28, 27/10. (Gen. de Gaulle to Admty., 2305/27) (See Operations Vol.)

North Atlantic.

PASTEUR. Re passage of Mr. J.H. McMillan of Dept.S.O.E. to Gibraltar, and onward to Malta in one of H.M. Ships. (D.O.D. (F) 0001/27 to F.O.C.N.A.

Azores Patrol, SHEFFIELD SHEFFIELD to sail forthwith to carry out Azores Patrol with same instructions as in A.T.1915/9 and 1927/9. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O. Force H., 1615/27)

Suspicious Vessel. Your 0454/27 request for verification of 1009/23 following is repetition asked for:- S.O. (I) Gibraltar repeated D.N.I. from N.A. Madrid. Valencia reports with date 15/10 most nights lately large steamer showing all lights has remained stationary off Cape San Antonio from 24 to 0300 hours. (N.A. Madrid, 1330/27).

HOTSPUR. Your 1319/25. HOTSPUR will be able to steam at least 17 knots, probably more. (F.O.C. N.A to C.in C. Med., 1314/27).

Military Camp. Pointing out 1,400 men due to be accommodated for one week will be in tented camps without bomb-proof shelters. Risk of casualties if French reprisal bombing incurred. (Govr. Gib., to W.O., 1500/27).

Raider Report. At 0059Z/22 in position 012° 57' N. 018° 37' W. INGLEFIELD intercepted raider's distress signals QQ QQ on a frequency slightly above 500 kc/s. No position or ships' name received nor was station heard to answer. Conditions for reception good but signals too weak for D/F bearing to be taken. (Capt. D.3., 0701/27 to F.O.C. N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Slow Convoys — In view of their liability to submarine attack, ships, too slow for convoy, which can reach U.K. without refuelling are not to be routed to U.K. direct in future. They are to be routed to Freetown for instructions and will be included in a slow convoy if possible. (C.in C. S.A. 1004/27).

W.S.3. WOOLWICH. — Asking whether whole convoy should be routed to Aden or Suez. CLAN CAMERON has engine defects, imperative to remain Capetown until a.m. 1/11. WOOLWICH reports essential remain 4 days for boiler defects, therefore intend ships shall complete boiler cleaning which will take 6 days. Anticipate remainder of convoy will sail a.m.29/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1103Z/27).
Replying to C.in C. E.I. 1202Z/26.
O.C. Military Mission 106 is in ORONTES, Convoy W.S.3 Past. (C.in C. S.A. 1301/27).

KENYA STRATHAIRD — My 1703/24 and 1209/25. KENYA sailed from Freetown 1200/27 escorting STRATHAIRD and ORCADES. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1335N/27) In event of STRATHAIRD being unable to keep up, to proceed independently 30 miles to westward of route given, etc. (C.in C. S.A. to KENYA, 1409N/27).

PRETORIA CASTLE — Admty. 2006/26. PRETORIA CASTLE can be made available but this will mean taking her away from patrol in areas ordered in my 1006 N/25. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1933/27).

Mediterranean.

Operation B.S. TETRARCH TRITON — TETRARCH and TRITON to leave Malta p.m./27 and 28/10 respectively. Orders for patrol, and date of recall. (Capt. S.1, 1255/27) (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1817/27).

Convoy Escorts. — S.N.O. Red Sea 0724/25 and my 1901/23. Confirmed no destroyers will be available. (C.in C. Med.,1237/27).

U/B Zones, PARTHIAN. — Information received that U-Boats from Aegean have been ordered to occupy number of zones from 28/10 to 5/11 one being area 032° 49' 027° 15' - 000° - 60 - 66.
PARTHIAN proceed through 032° 34', 026° 54', 031° 44', 029° 10'. (Capt. S.1, 1731/27).
Attention of 3rd C.S. drawn to movement of PARTHIAN. (C.in C. Med., 2015/27).

/ Suez Canal Bombed. .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Continued)

Suez Canal Bombed.

One enemy aircraft flew over Canal area, 0145 to 0240/27 dropping about 10 bombs in desert near Bitter Lake, east of Lake Timsah and west of Port Said. No damage or casualties. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1939/27).

Tobruk, Air attack. 24/10.

On 24/10, 14 aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE attacked Tobruk, starting from Martin Bagush aerodrome. 4 carried out high level bombing to distract attention from remainder who laid "cucumbers" in harbour entrance. Operation entirely successful. (C.in C. Med., 1321/27).

Malta Raids.

By 8 Italian aircraft between 0855 and 0920/27. Fighters intercepted and 2 enemy aircraft probably damaged. At 1000 enemy aircraft against approached to within 30 miles of the Island, circled and returned, probably searching for one of their aircraft which had made a forced landing.

3rd C.S.

Mediterranean 00251. 3rd C.S. leaves Alexandria 0500/28 passing south and west of area defined in C.in C. Mediterranean's 0949/27 and through positions 034° 03' N. 025° 30' East at 1830/28.
F.O. 3 C.S., 2228/27 to DECOY).

Mediterranean 00251/1 para. 29. 3rd C.S. will pass through following positions on 29/10 (details), thence direct to Alexandria. Join me as convenient after daylight. If operation is cancelled request you inform me as soon as practicable.
(C.S.3. 2235/27 to DECOY).

Disposition.

Movements Summary number 164. All times Z. - 2. REGULUS leaves Gulf of Sidra P.M./28. OSIRIS leaves Benghazi P.M./29. PANDORA Straits of Otranto P.M./30.
French submarines NARVAL between Lampedusa and Kerkenah Island. TETRARCH leaves Malta P.M./27, Gulf of Sidra, P.M./30. TRITON leaves Malta p.m./28 for Straits of Taranto, will not proceed eastwards of line 180° from Santa Maria de Leuca Light before 0001/1.
PARTHIAN left Gulf of Taranto P.M./25 due Alexandria daylight 31/10. PROTEUS east-bound expected to pass through position 032° 40' N. 025° 00'E. about daylight 29/10 due Alexandria daylight 31/10.
ORION, SYDNEY, JERVIS, JUNO, CALCUTTA, HAVOCK, HERO, expected to pass through Doro Channel southwards 001/28 proceeding through Kaso Straits to arrive Alexandria P.M./28.

MALAYA .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

MALAYA, EAGLE, COVENTRY and 6 destroyers leave position South East of Crete P.M./27 due Alexandria P.M./28.

GLOUCESTER, YORK leave Alexandria 0500/28 North-westward (route) to 032° 59' N, 023° 44' E. 1200/29 thence to Alexandria direct.

DEFENDER and convoy leave Port Said A.M./28 due Alexandria A.M. 29.
HUNTLEY and DERBY expected to leave Port Said 28th due Alexandria 29th.
ILEX and convoy leave Famagusta 28th due Haifa A.M./29 Port Said 30th, Alexandria 31st. (C.in C. Med., 2021/27).

East Indies.

Whale Catchers. — Admty. 2034/25. A.N.1 allotted Kenya Dhow Patrol. Disposal of A.N.4 and A.N.5 will be signalled. Asking when ready to sail, etc. (C.in C. E.I., to S.N.O. Simonstown, 0704/27).

Bahrein Defence. — Extracts from telegram from Political Resident, re defence requirements at Bahrein. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0954 Z/27).

W.S.4A. — Admty. 2006/26. An A.M.C. can be made available to escort W.S.4A from vicinity of Durban to Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 1138Z/27)

Raider Report. — Mombasa Radio reports hearing RRRR at 1238 G.M.T./27. No call sign or message. Reliability not assessed. Report if you heard anything. (C.in C. E.I. to CERES, 1458 Z/27). Your 1458 Z. Nothing heard of original signal. (CERES, 1618/27) My 1458 and CERES 1618. Nothing heard at Mauritius or Seychelles. (C.in C. E.I. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1724 Z/27) See 29/10.

Convoy B.N.7. — Arrived Suez. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1648/27).

FRANCESCO NULLO.

Second destroyer bombed. — My 0800/24th KIMBERLEY reports nothing of Italian Destroyer FRANCESCO NULLO left visible above water after latter blew up at about 0415 Z/21 in position 016° 28.8'N. 040°. 13.4' E. R.A.F. claim to have hit with bombs some hours later on 21st enemy destroyer one mile east of Harmil Island. Vessel appeared to have steam up but was not under way. Bomb hit stern and white and black smoke rose from stern to height of 200 to 300 feet. Air photographs taken shortly before release of hitting bomb show destroyer afloat in deep water.

/ Air .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

FRANCESCO NULLO

Second destroyer bombed.

Air reconnaissance 23 October reveals no destroyer in bombed position but large patch of oil and nothing else in FRANCESCO NULLO's position. Conclusion. FRANCESCO NULLO definitely sunk and completely submerged. Definite damage to another destroyer which may have sunk in deep water or been removed. (C.in C. E.I., 1500Z/27)

China.

MINGSANG

Boarded by Japanese.

Details of boarding by Japanese destroyer of British MINGSANG at 1820/25 in 27.52 N., 121.15 E. Am making strong protest. (N.L.O., Shanghai, 0937 Z/27).

Shipping.

26/10, arrival, SADO MARU YAWATA MARU; departures, CANTON Saigon; CALIFORNIA STANDARD, Bahrein; MOGAMIGAWA MARU, Japan. (N.C.S.O., Shanghai, 0322Z/27).

Indo-China.

Following from Schompre and for De Gaulle. Situation in Indo China becoming more tense. Am trying contact Martin immediately. If you agree would try and contact Cosme now in Chungking to whom I could appeal and ask him to explain exact situation. (C.in C. China, 0239Z/27).

Appreciation.

Your 0759/22.
Far Eastern appreication of which summary was telegraphed dealt with the main Far Eastern problem in absence of a Fleet. Question of minimum reinforcements short of sending a Fleet was dealt with in a later paper C.O.S. (40) 605, a copy of which is on the way to you. In this paper it is concluded that [redacted] would be [redacted] for trade protection in the Indian Ocean. Prime Minister's covering message was based on this appreciation which is present intended policy. (1 S.L. 1225/27, to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French Ships

Details from N.A., Washington of 4 ships (WINNIPEG, etc.) due to sail from New Orleans for U.K. with approval Admty. Request to inform ships at sea. (C.in C. A.W.I. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc. 1052/27, amplified 0248/28).

Australia.

U.S.6.

Left Fremantle 2200 Z/26 for Bombay. PERTH escorting to 12.30 E., (?S) 96.00 E., where she will be relieved by CANBERRA. (Navy Office, Melbourne, 0716 Z/27). Details and route. (D.N.O. W. Australia, 0115 Z/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GEDANIA. CAMITO to proceed to 270° 50 miles from Cape Roca, thence return to patrol, object interception of GEDANIA known to be proceeding northwards. (F.O.C.N.P., 1046/27).
Expected time of arrival St. Nazaire from Las Palmas on 30-31/10. (V.A.S., to S/M's on Patrol, Area "B", 0944/27).
May be approaching Bay of Biscay from westward (F.OC. N.P. 1540/27).

LAHN
ANATOLIA
NIENBURG } New York Maritime Register reports sale to New Texel Company, Argentine, of ? Freetown on condition ships remain idle throughout war. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1541/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ST. MALO. British, 5779 tons. In Convoy H.X. 77. Understood from survivors torpedoed and sunk on 18/10. (D.O.R. 27/10).

Submarines Reported.

1200. 54.10 N., 10.50 W. (C.in C. W.A.1422/27)

0938. 57.30 N., 5.10 E., probably U/B going home in Kattegat, may be damaged. (D.S.418)

1447. 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 419).

1106. 53.53 N., 11.26 W., conning tower seen by aircraft. (D.S. 419).

2307. S.W. of Lands End, very indefinite. (D.S. 419).

Submarines Attacked.

By TALISMAN 22/10. At 0645/22 in position 045° 49' 001° 43' W. unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes and guns one Italian U-Boat course 120°. No other shipping seen entering or leaving Gironde. Frequent A/S patrol by armed trawlers but no asdic transmission heard. Very infrequent A/S air patrol. Only slight intensification of A/S operations since 22/10. 5 unexploded torpedoes 183° 6 miles from above position. (TALISMAN, 0241/27).

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for Enemy Destroyers

WITCH and VOLUNTEER proceeded to sea from Portsmouth soon after midnight last night, on a report that enemy destroyers had sailed from Cherbourg, possibly to attack the Channel Convoy. The destroyers were not sighted.

BLYSKAWICA

was damaged in collision off Arran this evening. She reached Greenock.

Town Class Destroyers

BRADFORD, BROADWATER, BURNHAM and BURWELL arrived in the Clyde from U.S.A. this afternoon.

A/P Vessels

Arrangements are being made to replace by more seaworthy craft those A/P vessels which are unable to operate during the winter.

AUSTRALIA

Arrived in the Clyde today from Gibraltar.

As aircraft will from now on be co-operating with surface escorts of ocean convoys, ships in convoy are being informed not to open fire on aircraft at night when west of 7° W unless such aircraft are proved to be hostile.

British Air Activity

Coastal Command

Torpedo bomber aircraft this afternoon torpedoed and sank a merchant ship of about 2500 tons in the Aspo Fjord (Norway) Another smaller vessel was attacked in the same position, but results were not observed.

Coast Command aircraft early this morning attacked 5 merchant ships steering north about 45 miles west of the Helder. No definite results are reported

A merchant vessel 9 miles North of Ameland was attacked with torpedoes and possibly hit

5 Blenheims bombed and hit the power station at Brest today.

/Bomber Command....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

General.

Greece and Italy at war.

At 0300 today Italy delivered an ultimatum demanding Greek consent to the occupation of certain strategic points by 0600 today. This was refused and the Italian Minister was informed that this was considered a declaration of war. The help of Great Britain has been asked by sea to defend Corfu, by air to defend Athens and by financial assistance.
A state of war exists between Greece and Italy. At the request of the Greek Government the necessary instructions have been broadcast to Greek shipping, for avoiding enemy ports.

Home Commands.

Sweep for raider.

1st B.C.S. (HOOD, REPULSE) with FURIOUS, 3 cruisers and 8 destroyers proceeded to sea from Scapa today to search for a possible enemy raider reported by MAHOUT in 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. at 1826/27, steering E.N.E. CORNWALL, on passage to U.K. was diverted to search. AUSTRALIA left the Clyde to search.

M.T.B. patrol.

M.T.B's last night operated on the Dutch and Belgian coasts. Some enemy craft met, believed to be aircraft rescue boats, took avoiding action.

UTMOST

UTMOST sailed today to join the Mediterranean Fleet. She is to carry out a patrol to the westward of Lorient on the way.

H.49 overdue

S/M H.49 is overdue at Harwich and has not replied to a signal ordering her to report her position yesterday.

Harwich S/M base discontinued.

The use of Harwich as a submarine base is to be discontinued for the time being as Zone H is no longer tenable by S/M's owing to the probable existence of enemy mines and the remainder of the area off the Dutch coast is either fouled by our own mines or is too shallow.

British Air Activity.

Lorient, Channel ports (by single aircraft) and docks at Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg were attacked last night.
The power station at Lorient was attacked again early this morning.
4 direct hits were seen.

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN (bombed 26/10) exploded and sank at 0205 today.
The German wireless broadcast claims that she was torpedoed by a U-boat; however, BROKE (S.O. of escort) reports that no A/S contact was obtained.
Damage was caused at Liverpool docks last night. There ~~was~~ were no casualties or damage to H.M. Ships.
H.M. Drifter HARVEST GLEANER was bombed and sunk off Southwold today.
An enemy aircraft reconnoitred Iceland today.

Mining.

Operation B.S.43.

S.O. 20th D.F. reports Operation B.S.43 completed last night (mining in East Coast Barrier by TEVIOTBANK and PLOVER, escorted by INTREPID and ICARUS).
3 Hampdens laid mines off Lorient last night.

Enemy Minelaying aircraft last night operated off Thames Estuary, East and north east coasts and off east Scotland.

S.S. SUAVITY (mined yesterday) has sunk.

A mine exploded today under the stern of WALPOLE in the Thames Approaches, but ship was not holed, although damaged, WINDSOR towed her to Sheerness.
SHEAF FIELD in Convoy F.S. 20 was mined today in approximately the same position as WALPOLE, and was beached.
M.V. SAGACITY (490 tons) was damaged by a mine off Spurn Point this afternoon.
S.S. WYTHYBURN (420 tons) and DEVONIA (622 tons) were mined and sunk in the Bristol Channel this afternoon.
Ports affected today were Fishguard, Barry and Plymouth. The Tyne, Milford Haven and Rosyth were reopened.

Mediterranean.

R.A.F. attacked Benghazi and Derna last night. Damage was not observed.

Operation MAQ2

C.in C. Med. reports this operation completed (covering the passage of Convoy AN 5 from Port Said and Alexandria to Dardanelles, and air attack on Maltezana (see 27/10)).

KENT

left Suez today for U.K. for repairs.

/ Greek-Italian hostilities. .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Greek-Italian hostilities.

Tatoi aerodrome, Patras, Corinth Canal (twice) and Preveza were bombed today. No damage was done to the Corinth Canal and insignificant damage elsewhere.

America and West Indies.

HAMILTON (Town class destroyer) was damaged by grounding while undocking at St. John's, New Brunswick 25/10.

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Greece and Italy at War.

Informed by F.O. tel. from Athens that Italian have demanded by 0600 today 28th the occupation of certain unspecified stragetic points in Greece.
Greek President of the Council having refused these demands war appears inevitable. Greeks have asked for our assistance by sea to defend Corfu by air to defend Athens and by financial assistance. (1st S.L. 0544/28).

Policy.

Administration of destroyers by R.A.D.

Proposing R.A.D. should administer the destroyers in N.W. Approaches rather than at Scapa Flow in view of the large concentration of destroyers in N.W. Approaches (A.C.N.S.(H) 1204/28 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A.). Little advantage. Would complicate existing organisation (C.in C. W.A. 2057/28).
No objection but I must keep MAIDSTONE until HECLA is ready (C.in C. H.F. 2233/28)

Defence of U.K.

Deluge
Arbroath
Gail

At 0200/28 (D.C. 0220/28) At 1400/28 (D.C. 1427/28) Re A.A. defences. Request Air Min. be pressed to supply guns heavier than .303 at once. (R.A.N.A.S. 1114/28).

Movements.

Nore Command.

Night dispositions 28/29 Oct. (C.in C. Nore 0800/28) Movements to 1200/29 (C.in C. Nore 1200/28).

ARK ROYAL.

Cancel my 1045/27. ARK ROYAL delayed by fog. Intend to sail at 1030/29. ETA Clyde boom 2015/29. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/28)

C.in C. W.A. 1710/27 F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1030/28. Anticipated ARK ROYAL should be ready to sail about 1300/30. PASTEUR and GLASGOW should R.V. with ARK ROYAL in (position) it is requested fighter protection and air escort may be arranged accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645/28). GLASGOW is to proceed at 1530/29 to R.V. with ARK ROYAL in (position) at 1730/30. Request air escort may be arranged during daylight 30/10 (C.in C. H.F. 2155/28).

/ WORCESTERSHIRE .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

WORCESTERSHIRE.	Leave Clyde p.m./31 for N.P.(area) (F.O.C. N.P. 1120/28).
COMORIN.	Asking for routeing instructions for her (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1237/28)
EDINBURGH.	Passes Tyne Pier Head 1445/29 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1258/28).
Dover.	Patrols for night 28/29 Oct. (V.A. Dover 1339/28).
ARGUS.	To facilitate berthing programme not less than 24 hours notice will be given of date for ARGUS to load aircraft. This is unlikely to be before 7/11 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1347/28 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
Orkneys.	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/28).
Rosyth	Movements tonight (C.in C. Rosyth 1830/28).
MACKAY JERSEY	To proceed to Dartmouth arrival 0730/29. Plymouth closed due to suspected minelaying. (C.in C. W.A. 2021/28) To arrive 0930/29. Instructions for entering (C.in C. W.A. 2331/28)
BERWICK	Will proceed to Tail of Bank 30/10. Reason for delay. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2244/28).
KELVIN.	On completion of night patrol return to Plymouth so as to arrive 0930/29. Instructions for entering (C.in C. W.A. 2335/28).
Destroyers, Western Approaches.	My 1633/17. Destroyers are allocated as follows:- Group 5 WIVERN WALKER VANSITTART WESTCOTT CALDWELL Group 6 VETERAN WITHERINGTON VERITY CHELSEA Group 7 WANDERER WARWICK WILD SWAN CLARE Group 8 CASTLETON WHITEHALL VISCOUNT WINCHELSEA VANQUISHER Group 9 HIGHLANDER HAVELOCK HESPERUS HURRICANE HARVESTER Corvettes will be allocated as they become available. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1835/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland. W/T. communication) Your 0.305 cipher 5/10. No objection your approaching Icelandic Government on lines suggested. (War Office 0045/28 to Alabaster, Reykjavik).

Suspicious Vessel. Cancel my 0044/28. MAHOUT reports suspicious vessel answering description of KONIGSBERG displaying Flag signal heave to heading East. On sighting us vessel immediately turned and followed up at full speed last seen heading East North East. Investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 0500/28 to CORNWALL and 0722/28 to Ships).

Were you the vessel referred to (C.in C. W.A. 0507/28 to VOLTAIRE) No. My position at 0600 G.M.T. 57° 30' N. 29° 3'W. (VOLTAIRE 0605 Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.)
Your 0500. My position 53° 20' N. 20°42'W. course 340° speed 27 knots. ETA in area 1700 Z/28. (CORNWALL 0601 Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.).
Was Ship you sighted Warship or Merchant Ship (C.in C. W.A.0953/28 to MAHOUT)
MAHOUT reports vessel sighted was Merchant Ship. (C.in C. W.A. 2011/28 to Ships).
It is possible that an enemy raider was in position 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. at 1826/27 steering E.N.E. Ship reported as resembling KONIGSBERG but uncertain whether cruiser or merchant ship.
B.C. One is to proceed with available forces at Scapa on latter assumption so as to be in position 63° 008 N. 06° 00' W. at 0600/29 and carry out a sweep to Westwards. AUSTRALIA to proceed with despatch to position 57° 00' N. 09° 30' W. and then to northward along the meridian of 9° 30' West. (C.in C. H.F. 1147/28 to AUSTRALIA, B.C.1.)
(F.O.C.N.P. 1532/28 to CALIFORNIA, LETITIA, CHITRAL) AUSTRALIA sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1624/28 to Adty.)
My 1532/28. Ship sighted was Merchant Ship (F.O.C.N.P. 2145/28 to CALIFORNIA, LETITIA, CHITRAL)
My 1147/28. Suspected Raider in Merchant Ship. AUSTRALIA on reaching 60° N. is to steer towards 57° 30' N. 26° W. If nothing sighted by dark 29th, all Forces to return to their bases. (C.in C. H.F. 2147/28 to B.C.1. and AUSTRALIA) (V.A.S.2339/28 to CLYDE).

M.T.B's off Belgian Coast. Your 1909/27. Route was Ostend to Zeebrugge to 51° 42' N. 3° 24' E. on silent engines. No Ships seen. (V.4. 0914/28 to C.in C. Nore) (C.in C. Nore 001/29 to Adty.)

Patrol T. My 0710/27. Cancel Patrol T by AURORA and 21st D.F. (C.in C. Nore 1045/28 to AURORA)

/ Operation LUCID .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued).

Operation LUCID. My 1955/18. Zero Hour 2300/1st November. Amendment of Orders and new Appendices 4 and 5 are being forwarded. (A.C.N.S. H. 1202/28 to C.in C. Nore).
Para 11. In view of shortage of M.T.B's in Nore Command, request you say how many M.T.B.'s with silent engines can come to Sheerness in accordance with para. 1 b and take part in operation. (C.in C. Nore 2140/28 to V.A. Dover).
All available 60-foot and 70-foot M.T.B's will be required to come to Sheerness on 31/10 for an operation. Report how many can be made available. (C.in C. Nore 2142/28 to BEEHIVE).

M.T.B's in Straits of Dover. My 1231/27. M.T.B's report they were challenged several times by craft believed to be A/C Rescue Boats near Varne and Colbart Shoals. But no Ships sighted. (V.A. Dover 1320/28 to Adty.)

JACKAL) KELVIN) Patrol between Eddystone and 3° W. keeping 20 miles from coast. Return to Plymouth by 0900/29. (C.in C. W.A. 1845/28 to JACKAL).

Submarines.

THUNDERBOLT. Escorted by CUTTY SARK leaves Liverpool 1730/27 for Clyde. (V.A.S. 0211/28).

H.49 presumed lost. H.49 was ordered on 25/10 to leave zone H one P.M./26 and return to Harwich where she was due noon yesterday Sunday. She was ordered to report her position yesterday but no reply has been received. If nothing more is heard of her by 1800/28 regretted that she must be considered lost. There is no evidence as to the cause of her loss other than that a German broadcast at 1900/17 stated that a British submarine had been sunk in the Channel by German aircraft aided by trawlers and that wreckage was observed. H 49 however, only left Harwich at 1356/17 and it is unlikely this broadcast could have referred to her. (V.A.S. 1048/28 to Adty.)

/Proposed discontinuance of...

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Continued)

Proposed discontinuance of Harwich as S/M Base. UNIQUE USK H.28.

My 1048. Considered Zone H no longer tenable by submarines owing to probable existence of enemy mines. Remainder of area off Dutch Coast is either fouled by our own mines or is too shallow. Areas further to seaward off Dutch Coast are unlikely to be productive. It is therefore intended to discontinue use of Harwich as a submarine base for the time being. Propose UNIQUE and USK when available proceed to join 6th S/M Flotilla at Blyth and H.28 proceeds to join 7th S/M Flotilla at Rothesay. (V.A.S. 1049/28 to Adty.)

H.44.

Will be included in slow Convoy F.S.23, escort WATCHMAN and VERDUN, leaving Methil 0030/30 for Sheerness. (C.in C. Rosyth 1547/28 to Adty.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/29. (V.A.S. 1656 and 1858/28).

UTMOST.

My 1027/27. Sailed (C.in C. Portsmouth 1807/28) Passed St. Catherine's at 1845 steering 225° at about 8 knots. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2049/28 to MACKAY, JERSEY).

TAKU)
TUNA)

Instructions for Gironde patrol. (Capt. S.2. 1902/28 to S/M's Area B).

TALISMAN.

JAKCAL to meet at 0730/29 in 315° Longships Light 5 miles and escort to Milford Haven. (C.in C. W.A. 2013/28 to JACKAL).

British Air Activity.

Fighter Escort Zone for M/V's

C.in C. W.A. 1922/27. Propose to shift dawn to dusk position from Rathlin Island to 10° W. Suggested speed of Ships accordingly. (A.O. C.in C. C.C. 1315/28 to Adty.) Agree. Request routes regulated as that ships may pass 10° W. at a given latitude and time. (C.in C. W.A. 2031/28 to Adty.)

Hook to Borkum Rover Patrol.

A/C of 22 Squadron to carry out for Torpedo Attack on Shipping. A/C to be divided between dusk Patrol 28/10 and dawn Patrol 29/10. (H.Q.C.C. 1425/28 to 16 Group N. Coates).

Off Terschelling.

At 1655 in 53° 22'N. 5° 2'E. A/C attacked with torpedoes one 2000 ton M/V. and one 3000 ton M/V. Both missed. (Air Ministry 1947/28 to HQCC)

Off Borkum. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Off Borkum. — At 1705 in 53° 47' N. 6° 12' E. A/C attacked with torpedo two of 3 Tankers. Both missed. (Air Ministry 2010 and 2027/28).

BLACK WATCH sunk. — S.S. THE BLACK WATCH (? BLACK WATCH, Norw. 5035 tons) is reported to have been sunk by British air attack during 3rd week in September, whilst transporting German troops along the Norwegian coast (Air Min. D.S. 466).

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN (Bombed 26/10) — Exploded and sank at 0205/28. Returning (?) Campbeltown. ETA. 1300/28. (MARAUDER 0500/28 to C.in C. W.A.).
Request you comply with C.in C. W.A. 2212/27. (Cin C. Rosyth 0745/28 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

"EMPRESS OF BRITAIN" sank 0200 in position 55° 16', 9° 50'. Explosion near bridge observed 10 minutes before. No evidence of cause of explosion and no good contact obtained. Am not in touch with MARAUDER, THAMES. Am remaining in vicinity.
(BROKE 1025/28 to C.in C. W.A.).
Board of Inquiry to be held at 1000/29. Members and particulars. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1542/28 to SUSSEX)

BROKE 2 miles on after quarter observed nothing SARDONYX 6 cables on Port Quarter saw 2 flashes beneath bridge. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN listed Port at once. Ship was glowing inside and smoke was still coming thickly from the bridge and after well-deck at dusk. Destroyers were sweeping from 70 degs. on the bow to astern at 12 knots. E.T.A. Foyle 2359.
(BROKE 1912/28 to C.in C. W.A.)

A/C reports signal from BROKE off Tory Island intend to abandon search arrive Lough Foyle daylight Tuesday.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1946/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

Liverpool. — Damage by Bombs during Night 27/28 as follows. No Naval casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1245/28)

/ HARVEST GLEANER .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

HARVEST GLEANER. — Drifter. Bombed and sunk one mile off Southwold. 3 dead, one seriously injured landed at Southwold. Rest of crew believed safe. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1510/28 to Adty.) Bombed at 1250, sank at 1338, in 048° ¾ mile from Southwold Pier Light. 4 killed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1741/28).

Small Shells from A/C. — Report from Yarmouth coastguards indicates that enemy are dropping small explosive shells measuring 6 inches by 3 inches in the nature of Mills bombs filled with buckshot. These may reach the earth in small containers with six or ten of them inside. If touched they are likely to explode and six men were killed this morning Monday. (C.in C. Nore 1831/28 to Adty.)

Newhaven. — Bombed at 1705 with about 20 H.E. Considerable damage, including Fort. Very few casualties, none Service. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/28 to Adty.)

Mining.

Fishguard. — Closed owing to suspected mining (F.O.I.C Milford Haven 0023/28) Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1147/28).

Dirfter blown up off Humber 27/10. — Your 1631/27. Asking for details (F.O. Humber 0025/28 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

CARLTON sunk 25/10. — Unknown vessel blown up as reported in my 2220/25 now identified as steam drifter CARLTON of Grimsby (F.O. Humber 0945/28).

S.S. SUAVITY sunk. (mined 27/10). — S.S. SUAVITY (634 tons) sunk about 1 mile N. No. 20 buoy presumably by mine all crew rescued and landed at Hartlepool (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0210/28).

Harwich. — Two violent explosions seen and heard by C. G.Walton and P.W.S.S. at 0335 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0359/28)
Following from H.S. Patrols. Loud explosion about 30 yds. from ship's quarter presumably in position of mine dropped. A.G.0332 (F.O.I.C.Harwich 0635/28). My 1032/26 and 2118/27. Intend again to continue clearance sweep 29/10. Request air protection 0830 to 1730. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1856/28).

/ Tyne ....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Tyne.

Ground magnetic mine detonated off North Tyne Pier Light (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0925/28) Port of Tyne open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/28).

Operation B.S. 43.

Completed. Nothing to report (S.O.20th D.F. 1159/28).

WALPOLE mined.

WALPOLE mined aft in 51° 51' N. 1° 34'E. Am taking in tow.
(WINDSOR 0730/28).

My 0730 explosion occurred close under WALPOLE stern, ship not holed. WINDSOR 4 cables astern WALPOLE speed 12 knots. One mine only depth of water 10 fathoms. No casualties position 262° sunk light vessel 8 cables. (WINDSOR 4 cables astern WALPOLE speed 12 knots. One mine only depth of water 10 fathoms. No casualties position 262° sunk light vessel 8 cables. (WINDSOR 0749/28)

C.G. Walton and N.E. Swin Light Vessel reports at 0730 loud explosion N.E. one and a half miles from this station, Two destroyers in vicinity and he thinks one has struck a mine.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0755/28.)

Harwich 28/10 departures Rescue Tugs MURIA and KENIA at 0924 to assist WALPOLE. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/28).
WINDSOR reports:
My 0730 proceeding Sheerness making good 7 knots request Tug may meet Mouse Light Vessel 1245 WALPOLE has leaked in No.3 Oil Fuel tank both dynamos out of action turbine feet cracked steering working in hand. 1012/28 Ends. Request instructions. (C.in C. Nore 1441/28 to Adty.)

WALPOLE can be taken in hand now by Green and Silley Weir, Albert Dock. (D.O.D. (H) 1735/28 to C.in C. Nore).

SHEAF FIELD mined.

WESTMINSTER's 1005. (Not to Admiralty)
SHEAF FIELD in tow of Tug settling slowly. PUFFIN standing by.
(WALLACE 1008/28).

/ SHEAF FIELD .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

SHEAF FIELD (2719 tons) beached 3 miles N. Cork light ship, salvage Officer unable to board observed after part burning fiercely but expects high tide tonight will extinguish fire. Master fears fire will reach magazine. Ship was fourth in line ahead one mine exploded under starboard quarter holeing ship and causing fire. One casualty M.S. Gunlayer Lewis and Hotchkiss M/G salved. Position of mine 2 miles S.W. of sunk L.V. seems approximately same as WALPOLE's. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1838/28).

Milford Haven. Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1243/28).

Swansea. Port is now open (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1254/28)

Barry. Port is closed owing to mines (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1324/28).

Humber. Magnetic mine exploded by LL Trawlers at 0925 off Spurn Point Lighthouse (F.O. Humber 1430/28).

Rosyth. My 2301/27 approach channel to Rosyth between 2° 52' W. and Eastgate Inchkeith is open (C.in C. Rosyth 1523/28).

SAGACITY mined. M.V. SAGACITY (460 tons) damaged by underwater explosion off Spurn at 1326. Salvage operations proceeding. Tug proceeded 1520 (F.O. Humber 1540/28)

Plymouth. Port closed due to suspected minelaying proceed Dartmouth arriving 0730/29 (C.in C. W.A. 2021/28 to MACKAY, JERSEY).

Falmouth. 3 mines swept in proposed new channel to Fowey (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2028/28).

5th M.S.F. Available ships may be required to sail for Harwich p.m./30. To be at 1 hour's notice from 1600/30 (D.M.S. 2347/28)

WYTHBURN. Mined and sunk in 51°22'30"N. 3°15'W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1834/28 to Adty.)

DEVONIAN. British, 622 tons. Mined and sunk in 51° 22' 36" N. 3° 14' 48" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1835/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.	8 Destroyers seen. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1430 and 1940/28).
Hamburg, Bremen) Bremerhaven.)	R/C at 1130/28. (P.I.U. 1743/28 to N.I.D.)
Stavanger.	Shipping on 25/10. (P.I.U. 1835/28).
Flushing Breakens) Zeebrugge, Ostend,) Boulogne.)	R.C. at 1050/28. (P.I.U. 1840/28).
Off Scheldt.	At 1500 in 52° 9'N. 2° 33'E. 9 Destroyers escorted by A/C steering 055° at about 15 knots. A/C report. (Air Ministry 1721/28 to H.Q.C.C.)
Emden) Willemsoord)	Shipping and Barges at 1130/28. (P.I.U. 2237/28)
Re N.A. Stockholm 1244/26.	Your 0040/28 word is LARACHE. (N.A. Stockholm 1011/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ALCANTARA. My D.G. Gear carried away. Am trying to repair. (ALCANTARA 1901/28 to Adty.)

ANDELLE. My 1215/9/10. Cancel. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1105 B/28 to Adty.)

Unknown Vessel. Niton Radio reports receiving at 1007 G.M.T. an Automatic S.O.S. signal bearing about 350°. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1110/28, to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
O.B. 235.	My 1845/27. Estimated will be 4 hours early. (C.in C. W.A. to JASON, CAMELIA, HONEYSUCKLE, 0037/28).
S.L. 51.	Polish destroyer BURZA to meet (C.in C. W.A. 1835/28) My 0805/27. Unable to locate S.L.S. 51 and have not yet rejoined S.L. 51. S.E. gale, very high sea. Position at 0800/29, when will take escort to meet convoy. (ALCANTARA, 1901/28).
F.N. and F.S.	Additional escorts for convoys 22 to 28. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1616/28).
W.N. 26.	LEDA, ALBURY and KELLETT to sweep ahead of. (A.C.O.S. 1616/28). Position (ELLESMERE, 1645/28)
W.N. 28.	Propose cancelling as only 5 ships ready from all ports. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1551/28). Your 1551. Convoy W.N.28 is to be sailed as escorts are required at Rosyth to bring back E.N. convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 2241/28).
H.X. 81.	Not met. Her movements.- Weather. (WALKER 1900/28).
Routes, Air Zone.	In view of A.O.C. in C., C.C's 1315/28, re air escort available for ships, agree to moving the zone to 10° W. Request routes may be regulated so that inward and outward bound ships pass this longitude of a given latitude and time. (C.in C. W.A., 2031/28).
Troop Convoys. W.S.4A.	Admty. 2108/26. Consider 12 destroyers required to screen CORNWALL, BERWICK and W.S.4A. Anticipate 8 available. Grateful if you could make up deficiency. (C.in C. W.A., 1337/28 to C.in C. H.F.) Your 1337. BEAGLE now at Greenock is available. Will try to provide one other, but cannot do more than that. (C.in C. H.F. 2230/28). Orders to BEAGLE (C.in C. H.F. to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2225/28). Route for convoy. CAIRO to sail as A/A escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1545/28).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Trawlers for Casablanca

French Trawler MARCELLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, JACQUES COEUR, DUGUAY TROUIN, BOIS ROSIE, left Newfoundland possibly for Casablanca. If intercepted send in to a Port in U.K. Others may follow. (V.A.N.P. 0010/28, to Western Patrol)

Following French trawlers left St. Pierre Newfoundland 19/10, believed for Casablanca. MARCELLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, EMMA DUGUAY TROUIN. 21/10 BOIS ROSE and one other. Others including sailing and Auxiliary vessels are likely to follow. All the above if encountered are to be sent in to a U.K. port. (F.O.C.N.A. 1029/28 to ships on N.A.A.)

Vicht French Colours

Vichy French merchant ships observed to fly yellow flag of Irving and Johnson Ltd., to French ensign and to have yellow border painted round French ensign on ship's sides (C. in C., S.A. 1118/28)

SAVOIE Dakar Troops

Report (B.2) left Casablanca for Dakar 27/10 with Senegal troops and munitions. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty.)

Libreville

(C.S.1. 1432A/28, to Admiralty, see Operations Volume.)

North Atlantic

VICTORIA

Your 1235/19. Asking whether French Govt. have obtained German guarantee. French should be asked to sent VICTORIA with Britosh seamen to Gibraltar, not Lisbon. (Hd. of M to N.A.Madrid,1055/28)

French Food Ship

Gibraltar 28/10 1120, French surveying ship ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ passed from Westward to Eastward escorting S.N.A. 7. Ship signalled S.N.A.7 carrying foodstuff for only the use of French people. (S.O.I. Gib., 1133/28 to Admty.)

/KINGSTON SAPPHIRE..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE — Officers and men of H.M.trawler KINGSTON SAPPHIRE will probably be allowed to go to Gibraltar in a few days. (N.A.,Madrid, 1950/28)

CANADA, French Hospital Ship — My 1331/21 French N.A. requests most urgently reply today if possible as Hospital Ship CANADA is due to leave Toulon tomorrow. (N.A.Madrid, 1225/28, to Admty)

Route — N.A.Madrid's 1331/21. French hospital ship CANADA should be routed through following positions to Bar Light Ship. She should not be sailed unless she is fully equipped and fuelled, stored to carryed 250 patients and has been provided with German safe conduct. (Head of M. 1913/28 to E.O.C.N.A., and N.A. Madrid)

South Atlantic

DELHI
DEVONSHIRE — Movements ordered. (C.S.i., 1016A/28)

French Prisoners — Request arrangements may be made for transport and armed guard to disembark 28 white French, two Arab and 45 Kroomen prisoners of war ex French ship ALBI immediately on arrival of DELHI at base buoy about 1800/29 (DELHI 2024/28 to N.C.S.O. Duala)

Troop Transports W.S. 3 A — My 1103/27. Officers and other ranks for East Africa ex WINCHESTER CASTLE too numerous to accommodate in ERINPURA alone, being distributed between ERINPURA and KHEDIVE ISMAIL which will necessitate latter calling at Kilindini. This also necessitate by Master KHEDIVE ISMAIL now stating margin of fuel too small for ship reach Aden with safety. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1040Z/ 28 to C. in C., E.I.)

/Your 1457/28.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Troop Transports W.S. 3 A-Contd.

Your 1457/28. As transhipment of troops in accordance my 1040/28 has taken place already and both ERINPURA and KHEDIVE ISMAIL are ready to sail with W.S. 3 A a.m./29, intend arrangements stand and ships sail accordingly. (N.O.I.C.Simonstown 1933Z/28 to D.S.T.) War Office averse to OROPESA being held Aden or to diversion of whole convoy. Suggest maximum number be transferred from OROPESA to WINCHESTER CASTLE and other vessels in convoy. (D. of S.T. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1957/28)

Overdue Shipping

My 1215/9. Cancel ANDELLE (S.O.I. Capetown 1105B/28)

Stores, Lagos

Your 1441/27. Am embarking stores. Am informed by N.C.S.O.Lagos that if in the future H.M.Ships require to store at Lagos it is absolutely necessary that stores of all descriptions except meat and potatoes should be sent and held as stock by himself. (MILFORD 2150/28, to F.O.I.C.S.)

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War

Following is Mediterranean Station message 283 B. A state of war exists between Greece and Italy. T.O.O. 0650/28. (C. in C. Med., to S/M's. Med. Fleet, 0715/28)

Fleet Disposition

Forces at sea have been recalled to fuel. The Fleet will proceed as soon as sufficient Destroyers have been collected probably this evening. Intend to use Suda Bay or other Greek Port for fuelling. (C. in C., Med. 0729/28 to Admty.)

Crete

Matter of first importance to prevent an Italian landing in Crete. (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med. 1049/28)

/Shipping.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War

Greek Preparations-Contd. My 0816. Cancel arrangements for Greek coast batteries reply. They will instead reply to red flash with series short and long white flashes. (N.A.,Athens, 0900/28)

British Help Anxious to help Greeks, but cannot think of anything from naval point of view except possibly stationing A/A cruiser at Piraeus, but this would not assist in defence of Athens. In view of your shortage, probable you could ill spare an A/A cruiser. Asking for suggestions. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1648/28)
Reply. (C. in C., Med., 2159/28) See Mediterranean Volume.

Suda Bay Party of officers all 3 services arriving by flying boat a.m./29 to get into touch with Greek authorities. C. in C., M.E. consulting with W.O. about sending battalion. Small convoy sails a.m./29 for Suda Bay, which port use as an advanced fuelling base. Fleet movement and AJAX. (C. in C., Med., 1649/28)

Shipping Safety of British, Greek and Allied vessels in or near Greece is first essential, but they should load as much chrome and magnesite cargo as can be lifted in safety before vessels clear from Greek ports. (Hd. of M., 1812/28, to C. in C., Med.)

Crete "Action" Code word "action" established for a certain operation. (C. in C., Med., 2101/28)

Greek Submarines Area in which they may be operating. British submarines to keep at least 10 miles outside this area. (Capt 1 S.F., 2309/28)

Situation, Air Attacks Up to 1800 this evening artillery duels only on sectors of Albanian frontier. No indication yet of serious attack. Following bombed with insignificant damage, Tatoi aerodrome, Patras, Corinth Canal, twice (no damage), Preveza (Mainly in sea) No enemy action against Corfu (Military Attache, Athens, 2090/28)

/Italian....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War-Contd.

Italian Intelligence

Result of air reconnaissance 1200 to 1700B/28.

Main Italian Fleet in Taranto and Brindisi
Two destroyers south of Brindisi steering north.
Convoy of five merchant vessels off Taranto eastbound.
Three destroyers off Spartevento Cape and three destroyers north of Cape Colonne all northbound.
No enemy activity in Corfu, Argostoli, Gulf of Patras or adjacent waters.(T.O.O. 1911/28) (V.A.Malta, 1923/28)

Air reconnaissance today reports Brindisi one battleship 4 cruisers 6 destroyers, Taranto 5 battleships 5 cruisers large number of destroyers. (Capt S. 1. 1707/28, to S/M's on Patrol)

Greek Shipping

On instructions of Greek Government all Greek vessels in Pacific if bound for American Continent are to proceed. If bound for Asia they are to make for a British or Dutch port or for a port in the United States or under Untied States control.
In Atlantic vessels are to proceed if west bound.
If east bound they are to make for a British port.
No Greek ships are to proceed to France or to ports in French possessions.
(Hd. of M. 2005/23 "A" Message)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

RORQUAL	To leave Alexandria 0900/29 for Malta (Capt S.1. 0925/28)
French Warships Alexandria	Requesting information as to percentage of crews on board, whether any plans for seizing them, and Godfroy's reaction to Petain-Hitler agreement. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1649/28)
Operation White Collar	In view of cancellation of Operation Uniform cancel Admty 0205/18. Following are proposals for Operation White Collar. (See Mediterranean Volume) (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 1736/28)
HOTSPUR	F.O.C.N.A. 1314/27. Damaged asdic gear can probably be repaired at Malta by using parts from IMPERIAL. (V.A.Malta, 1645/28)
PARTHIAN	My 1731/27. Amending route. (Capt S. 1. 1611/28)
PANDORA TRITON	Orders for Patrol (Capt S.1. 2255/28)
French Shipping	Following French ships to be accorded safe conduct. Hospital ship SPHINX, leaving Beirut 28/10, MARIETTE PACHA and CHAMPOLLION leaving Beirut 31/10, ATHOS II and FLORIDA leaving Marseilles 31/10 for Beirut T.O.O. 2058/28 (C. in C., Med., 2103/28)
Fulmars	A.T. 1824/27/9. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.. state Fulmars had not arrived Takoradi on 26/10 What is present position regarding these aircraft? (C. in C., Med., 1159/28 to Admty
Turkey, Oil Shortage	In report ~~to~~ No. of M.E.W. 278 of 10/10 from Consul-General, Istanbul, to M.E.W. on subject of lubricating oil and grease in Turkey, it is apparent she is about to experience an acute shortage which may affect running of her fleet. Consider M.E.W should be urged to lift their ban on lubricants imported by Turkey, otherwise we may find her fleet immobilized at a time when its services are urgently required. (C. in C., Med., 11312/28 to Admty)

Roumania....

MOST SECRET

28.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Roumania.
German Activity

Latest re German submarines in Black Sea is from Yugo Slav. Military Attache Sofia who states Headquarters German submarine command is at Bourgas. (Rated D.4) There may be nucleus of German meteorological and W/T stations there and at Varna.
Passage of German Naval Personnel to Roumania is reported from Budapest middle of October including 75 "Naval Technicians" by air.
No reports based on direct observations of alleged submarines from any source and am concentrating on this. (Wolfson, 1235/28 to S.O.I., Med.)

Operation
M.A.Q. 2.

My 1235/24. Operation M.A.Q.2. completed. Attack on Maltezana carried out 27/10 aircraft claim hanger hit and set on fire. One hit on seaplane slipway. About 20 bombs dropped on barracks and ammunition dump area, one explosion occurred in approximate position of dump. Heavy explosion heard by last aircraft 10 minutes after leaving area. Incendiary bombs scattered over target area. Eight aircraft took part, all returned. No enemy air activity. (C. in C., Med. 2027/28 to Admty)

Air Action
Against Italy

Air Ministry 2140/28. See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET

28.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

CALEDON — My 1124/2/9. Add CALEDON to Red Sea Force (C. in C., E.I., 0618/28)

Convoy W.S.3. — Admty 2359/26 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103/27 Cancel my 0946/25. Route for W.S. 3 A and W.S. 3 B.1. CARTHAGE to R.V. CUMBERLAND and W.S. 3 A at position A, where CARTHAGE will take over escort from CUMBERLAND.
On W.S. 3 B joining W.S. 3A, CARTHAGE to meet W.S. 3 C, and DORSETSHIRE to escort W.S. 3. to about 20° and the as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea.
N.O.I.C. Simonstown to sail CLAN CAMERON and WOOLWICH in company when ready along W.S. 3. route. Convoy to be called W.S. 3 C and will proceed through Red Sea with B.N. 8½ (C. in C., E.I., 0810Z/28) C. in C., E.I. 0946Z/28 cancelled by above.

Hospital Ships — A.C.N.B. 0845/25. See no objections to it being accepted that cases embarked in QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, and MAURETANIA forego the privileges attending passage in a hospital ship. (C. in C., E.I., 1132Z/28)

Convoy U.S. 5A — Sailing telegram. Escort, SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, KANDAHAR, FLAMINGO (N.C.S.O., Aden 1232Z/28)

Assab Raid — Intelligence Summary No 138 for 24 hours ending 1500/28. Three Blenheims 8 Sqdn. medium level attacks Assab 1025. Supposed petrol dump pin point 23 all bombs in target area. Fuel dump pin point 1 some direct hits. A.A. positions Hodunlai Island and buildings Fatba Island all near misses.

U.S. 5 A Escort — One Blenheim 203 Sqdn. Fighter escort for convoy U.S. 5 A 11 Gladiators 94 Sqdn. standing fighter patrol Aden 0455 to 0700 and 0735 to 1130. No casualties. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden 1830/28)

China

Shipping — My 0745/23. PANG WO sailing p.m./28 Date of arrival Singapore. (Cdre. Hong Kong, 0725/28

Japanese Submarine lost — N.A. Tokyo 1012/26. This is probably one of the submarines mentioned in my 0404/7/9 (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0941Z/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Frendh Shipping — Amplifying his 1052/27. (C. in C., A.W.I. 0248/28)

DIOMEDE — To leave Trinidad 31/10 and patrol route AA to position 21.40 N., 52.00 W., returning to Trinidad (date) (C. in C., A.W.I., 1222/28

U.S.- Asdics — C.A.F.O. 967/40, destruction of Asdic installation. American naval authorities have requested similar precautions be taken with regard to their A/S equipment. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1152/28)

Firing Report — Master of Yugoslav ship BALKAN reports white and blue rockets following gunfire in 20° N. 45° W., at about 2200 on 23/10. (C. in C., A W.I., 1533/28)

French Ships — Following French ships proceeding to U.K. from U.S.A. with Admty approval:- WINNEPEG, SAN FRANCISCO, WYOMING, OREGON. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1531/28)

Australia

Operations by N.E.I. Navy — Your 1707/24. As mandate precludes establishment of naval bases and Commonwealth Government has scrupulously respected that provision to avoid possible criticism of infringement of mandate, mainland mandated territory should not be used. Suggest alternative Papua e.g. Samarai. Subject to foregoing, arrangement vide para (iii) will be made. (A.C.N.B., 1218Z/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

USARAMO — My 1318/25. Report proved unfounded. (Consul Vigo 0940/28) Entered Coreubion 23/10 and left early 25/10 (Corunna, 1530/28)

Unknown German ship approx. 10,000 tons, name painted out, arrived and left same dat Pasaje unknown destination. (V. Consul, S. Sebastian 1800/28) Possibly USARAMO (D.S. 420)

GEDANIA — Report that GEDANIA from Las Palmas making for St. Nazaire where she will arrive 30-31/1((F.O.C.N.A. to Ships, N.A. 1224/28)

HELGOLAND — Bassenquilla reports sailed between 2100-2200 tonight. Bermuda pass to Netherlands VAN KINSBERGEN (S.O.I. Kingston, 2324/28)
My 2324. Ship reported steaming toward Costajena. (S.O.I. Kingston 2345/28)

REGENSBURG — R.O. Yokohama reports (b.3) REGENSBURG arrived 28/10. (Capt O.S., Singapore 14042/28)

NORBURG — Arrived Galatz with manganese ore from Russia (D.S. 420)

DELOS — Arrived Galatz with barley from Russia (DS420)

YALOVA — Left Galatz for Batum (D.S. 420)

MOST SECRET

28.10.1940
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

USKBRIDGE (Torpedoed 17/10)

21 survivors from USKBRIDGE torpedoed in convoy at 0245 B.S.T. on 17/10 in a position 060° 40' N., 015° 50' W., landed Bermuda 27/10 by DALMORE. Third officer reported 6 others including Chief Officer in CULEBRA. All believed saved except Captain and Second Officer. Reference F.O. 3059/39, Thomas G. Perry, Gunlayer, reported among survivors in MONTREAL CITY. Request owner be informed. (c. in C., A.W.I. 1023/28)

My 1023/28. Third Officer USKBRIDGE reports on each occasion of an attack on convoy NEVA showed lights but does not know if these lights were exposed prior to attack He further states that the 4 ships torpedoed on 15/10 and 17/10 were near the middle of the convoy whose speed was 7 knots. Bright moonlight. Not zig zagging. U-Boat not sighted by survivors. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1033/28)

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN

(Attacked by aircraft 26/10) Your 1025/28 German broadcast claims sinking EMPRESS of BRITAIN by torpedo from a submarine. (D.C. to BROKE, 1801/28) BROKE, S.O. Escort reports no A/S contact obtained (D.O.R. 29/10)

Submarines Reported

1200 — Am over enemy submarine in 57.53 N., 03.08 N. (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1200/28) Enemy submarine has dived (A/C 220 Sqdn. 1202/28) Have lost touch. Request instructions. (A/C 220 Sqdn. 1245/28) Enemy submarine 360 course 5 knots (A/C 220 Sqdn. 1300/28)

1250 — Following intercepted 92 to S.C.D. one periscope sighted. (Valentia Radio, 1251/28) 55.42 N., 16.04 W. (Estimated) (D.S. 420)

0332 — 58° N., 13° W., Position indefinite. (DS 419)

1631 and 1818 — About 250' S.W. of Fastnet, position indefini (D.S. 420)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 U/B possibly Italian S.W. of Ireland far out.

German: 1 S.W. of Ireland bound northwards
1 was in area 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W at 1447/27
1 in area 58° to 60° N., and W. of 20° W.
1 approximately in position 55° 20° N., 9° W at 0200/28
1 was in about 58° N., 13° W at 0332/28.
1 more in North Western Approaches, whereabouts unknown.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1312/28)

Submarines Attacked

1650 Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs dive and estimate no hits. 59.09 N., 1.20 W (A/C Hatston 1650/28) Cancel Hatston A/C 1650. (A.C.O.S., 1917/28)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Administration of Destroyers by R.A.D.	Cancel my 2057/28. Your 1204/28 as destroyers operating in North West Approaches are based on 3 separate ports at each of which there is a Captain (D) and in addition a Flag Officer in Charge at 2 of these Ports. I consider that little advantage would be gained by transferring a Rear Admiral D to North West Approaches which would be likely to complicate unnecessarily existing organization. A repair ship is however needed at both Greenock and Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A. 0001/29 to Adty.).
War Policy.	A.M. 2028/25. Preliminary Conference under 1st Lord will be held in Adty. at 1600/30. (1st S.L. 1048/29 to C's-in-C.) A.M. 2020/25. Following is Agenda for Meeting on 31/10. (1st S.L. 2057/29 to C.'s-in-C.) Your 1068/29. Weather permitting A.C.O.S. will leave Hatston 0900/30 to fly to Hendon direct. (A.C.O.S. 1220/29 to Adty.)
Oiling facilities at Campbeltown.	Urgently required. Propose OTTERHOUND, 900 tons capacity, be retained in Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1138/29 to Adty.)
Second Town Flotilla.	My 1852/26 and your 1008/21. Owing to enemy minelaying it has not been possible to advance the A/S training of Second Town Flotilla to the extent indicated in A.M. 1610/24. BATH, ST. ALBANS, and ST. MARYS have exercised once with submarine and one full calibre shoot. CHARLESTON has not been able to carry out practices at sea. As it seems improbable that further sea training can be carried out from Plymouth in the immediate future intend sailing ships P.M. 30th. (C.in C. W.A. 1612/29 to R.A.M.L.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.	At 0209/29. (D.C. 0201/29). At 1400/29. (D.C.1411/29).
Shetlands. R.D.F. Stations.	At Skaw (North Unst) and Noss Hill (near Sumburgh) to be opened about 21/11. (D. of L.D. 1418/29 to F.O.C. Shetlands).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

My 2100/26. Para. 1. delete COSTA RICA and insert from Clyde Troopships WARWICK CASTLE and HIGHLAND MONARCH. Para. 2. Delete BERWICK. (D.O.D. H. 1212/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
A.M. 0542/29. Particulars of additional Ammunition and Stores coming from War Officer. Embark as much as possible. (D.O.D. F. 1045/29 to BERWICK).
Request you sail and route BERWICK from Glasgow on 31/10 for Gibraltar. To proceed at best possible speed to R/V if possible with ARK ROYAL before entering Gibraltar. To be temporarily attached to Force H on arrival. (D.O.D. H. 2058/29 to C.in C. W.A.)
It may be necessary to recall leave and load ARGUS with Hurricane A/C. Preparations to be made but no action at present. (D.O.D. H. 2111/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

WORCESTER. Return to Harwich on completing Patrol 0 this morning. (Capt. D.16 0236/29 to WORCESTER)

EDINBURGH. Desirable you pass May Island not later than 1900 owing to probable enemy Mine-laying after dark (C.in C. H.F. 1226/29 to EDINBURGH).

SALOPIAN. My 1048/27. Cancel reference to O.L. 10. Leave Clyde 1600/31. Route to Area H.3. (F.O.C. N.P. 1248/29).

CHITRAL. Sailed in accordance with F.O.C. N.P. 1050/27. (F.O. Greenock 1528/29 to Adty.)

Dover. Patrols for Night 29/30. (V.A. Dover 1432/29).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1536/29).

ROSEMARY. My 1017/29. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1811/29 to JACKAL).

2nd Town Flotilla. Intend sailing Ships P.M./30. (C.in C.W.A. 1812/29 to R.A.M.L.)

HASTINGS. N.C.S.O. Methil 1052/29. Additional A/A cover in Pentland Firth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1845/29 to A.C. W.A.)

1st B.C.S. My position 63° 55' N. 11° 27'W. course 117° speed 15 knots. DIDO in company. Intend altering course to 167° at 0800/30. If you fail to rejoin during daylight to-morrow proceed to Scapa. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1800/29 to PHOEBE, SOUTHAMPTON).

/ ELECTRA. .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

ELECTRA. C.in C. H.F. 1211/27. To sail from Rosyth 0900/29, R/V with EDINBURGH off Tyne Pier Heads at 1600/29 and provide A/S Escort to Rosyth.
(D.4. 1954/27 to ELECTRA).

Operations.

D.D.O.D.(H) 0010/29, 1st S.L. 0315/29, D.O.D.(F) 0342/29. See Operations Volume.

Operation "Lucid". Admty. 1955/18. Indicate route you consider should be followed by Force A. when leaving Downs. Request this route may be swept before the operation.
(C.in C. Nore 0946/29 to V.A. Dover)
Your 0946. Route should be (details). This route has been cleared for a distance of 3 miles from No.1 buoy. Given conditions of low visibility so that the operation is unobserved a search will be made as far as No.2 A buoy but it is observed that owing to strong cross tides the force cannot be sure of being in swept water unless following astern of minesweepers.
(V.A.Dover 1153/29 to C.in C. Nore).

Proposing that Force C be cancelled and 4 destroyers detailed to each of the other two forces (C.in C. Nore 1250/29 to Adty.) Your 1250/29. Concur (V.C.N.S. 2139/29 to C.in C. Nore).

CHITRAL for Iceland. My 1328/29 (sailing of CHITRAL) add ETA Reykjavik 1000 B.S.T. (F.O. Greenock 1612/29).

Personnel for Iceland. LETITIA could take them leaving Clyde 8/11 (D.O.D. (H) 1912/29 to V.A.N.P.)

Search for raider. Your 1800/29 continue search with your force during daylight hours tomorrow on assumption that enemy is passing midway between Iceland and Faroes at a speed of 9 to 10 knots. AUSTRALIA act as in my 2147/28.(C.in C. H.F. 2140/29 to S.O. Battle Cruisers H.F.).
Following received since my 2140/29 from NORTHERN REWARD on T R 34. Begins sighted merchant ship two masts one funnel about two thousand tons steering east north east. Unable to intercept through bad weather and poor visibility? Ends. (C.in C. H.F. 2256/29 to S.O. B.C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Reinforcement of Med: Fleet.

Your 1547/28. My 1736/28.

(a) BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, and 3 destroyers will reinforce Mediterranean Fleet leaving Gibraltar on or about 5th Nov.

(b) All ships will carry personnel for Malta. Personnel in BARHAM will be such that if BARHAM is unable to enter Malta they can proceed to Alexandria and return later.

(c) BERWICK will carry 12 Bofors guns for Crete.

(d) Force (H) consisting of RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and destroyers will take part in the operation.

(e) M.T. ships for Malta and ARGUS will be sailed later as in para.(f) of my 1813/28.

(f) Prepare plans accordingly.
(1st S.L. 0315/29 to C.in C. Mediterranean).

BERWICK.

My 2108/26 and 2109/26. BERWICK may now be required to sail in company with ARK ROYAL on 30/10 (D.D.C.D.(H) 0010/29).

Cancel my 0010/29. 1. Movement of BERWICK from Glasgow is to be deferred to enable her to embark the following. (a) 12 Bofors Guns. (b) 25 tons portable R.A.F.Stores. (c) 5 tons incendiary bombs. (d) between 50 and 100 R.A.F. ranks. 2. Latest time of arrival of these stores and personnel is 1200/30. 3. BERWICK will sail for Gibraltar independently. Further signal will be made. (D.O.D.(F) 0342/29 to F.O.I.C.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Following from Prime Minister.
Your 1432/28. Disadvantages of delay in attacking Libreville are fully appreciated but until we know the terms of the agreement between Petain and Hitler and the reactions in French Africa any British attack upon French Colonial possessions cannot be contemplated. Immediately situation has clarified sufficiently a decision will be made whether the attack on Libreville can be authorised. It will then be necessary for you to decide whether the conditions are still favourable for an attack. Meanwhile perfect your plans.
(C.N.S. 0145/29 to C.S.1.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

0.24.	Movements. (Capt. S.9. 1027/29 to 0.24) Your were probably reported by A/C at 0911/29. (V.A.S. 1049/29 to 0.24).
Harwich.	(Discontinuance as S/M Base). Your 1049/28. Approved. (V.C.N.S.1131/29 to V.A.S.) Concur (C.in C. H.F. 1218/29 to Adty.)
UTMOST } UPRIGHT } CLYDE }	UTMOST in 49° N. 6° W. at 0700/30. Route thence to Gibraltar. UPRIGHT leaves Portsmouth 1530/30. Route to Gibraltar. CLYDE in about 52° N. 15' W. at 0600/1, due Falmouth 0900/4 (V.A.S. 1518/29).
Greenock Area.	Movements. (F.O. Greenock 1523/29).
3 Destroyers.	Enemy referred to in my 1331/29 in 3 Destroyers. (Capt. 3.1 1641/29 to PANDORA).
SWORDFISH } L. 27 }	Positions. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1733/29)
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/30. (V.A.S. 1744/29 and 2357/29).
S/M Patrol Area S.3. }	My 1313/28. Area is re-established from 0001/30 between following limits. Area D.4. remains as stated. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2213/29 to Adty.)
0.14.	Your 1954/28. 0.14 arrived Rothesay 22/10 with 13½ tons of Oil Fuel remaining (V.A.S. 2333/29 to R.A. 3rd B.S.)
TITANIA	(Berthing at Holy Loch). My 1112/19. Requirements if approved. (V.A.S. 2352/29 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Suspicious Vessel. Sunderland aircraft leave Sullum Voe at 1st light for Port Arthur 063° N. 016° W. thence parallel search Westwards between this position and 60° 14° W. thence to Invergordon to arrive after dark.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0060/29 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

Aircraft to proceed to 55° 25' N. 8° 15' W., thence sweep to 54° N. 11° 11' W. and further South to endurance. If Ship not met Relief A/C to be cancelled.
(Plymouth 0515/29 to Adty.)

Plymouth

Disposition of Balloon Barrage. Air Ministry's 1325/26. Experience with enemy minelaying at Plymouth shows that aircraft do not intentionally enter balloon barrage and all recent mine-laying has been done outside the breakwater. If balloons are moved as suggested the enemy will be able to lay mines in the Sound thereby preventing the port being used as an operational base. The present trial arrangements whereby balloons are close hauled to 300 ft. for F/Bs. to operate is acceptable to 15 group but the risks to F/Bs. are not acceptable if balloons are flown at 1000 ft. or more. Thus if the latter were insisted on Plymouth could not be used as a F/B base.
It is essential that Plymouth Sound shall be available as an anchorage for ships and for operating F/Bs. Some risks are inevitable and it is considered the possibility of losing some balloons due to close hauling to 300 ft. should be accepted.
Agreement has been reached locally that the present arrangements are the best that can be devised and should continue balloons being close hauled to 300 ft. for a minimum period when required by Mount Batten for F/Bs. to operate. This is the only acceptable solution to the problem, though it is realised that it may not be in accordance with present Balloon Command practice.
(C.in C. W.A. 1102/29 to Adty.)

Sunderland A/C capsized. 4 Hudsons leaving shortly to search area till dark (C.in C. Rosyth 1254/29 to AUSTRALIA) Located Sunderland by D/F at 1240. (C.in C. Rosyth 1338/29 to AUSTRALIA) Sunderland capsized before reaching at 60° 46' N. 11° 3' W. Have rescued 9 and searching for remaining 4. (AUSTRALIA 1534/29 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Rosyth. Air Searches tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 1954/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

German A/C in Stour.	Crashed in Stour. 3 airmen surrendered at Thorpe le Soken and Shotley. (F.O.IC. Harwich 0701/29).
Iceland.	German aircraft sighted 1030/28. Monoplane sighted 0900/21 (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1206/29)
Ipswich.	Grenade dropped on docks at Ipswich yesterday exploded whilst being made ready for countermining causing loss of life. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1250/29).
DUTHIES (bombed 25/10)	Sank alongside at Montrose. Thought she will be total loss. Details. Asking for disposal of crew. (Arbroath 1440/29).
A/C exploded off Methil.	In the air. Details. (C.in C. Rosyth 1533/29).
Convoy "AGENT".	1 aircraft shadowing 52° 2' N. 1°42' E. (WESTMINSTER 1540/29) 1 aircraft 52° 8'N. 1° 51' E. (WESTMINSTER 1641/29). My 1641. Aircraft identified Dornier 17. Engaged, driven off to eastward (WESTMINSTER 1647/29).
Capt. D.21.	30 enemy aircraft 18000 ft., off Mouse (Capt. D. 21 1633/29).
Havant.	Minor damage at Leigh Park House night 28/29 Oct. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth Dockyard 1630/29).
ARCTIC TRAPPER.	(H.M.Tr.) bombed at 1054/29 097° Ramsgate one mile damaged by 4 near misses. Ship beached off Ramsgate, hoped to refloat 30/10, no casualties. (V.A. Dover, 1921/29)
Dover.	Italian aircraftr (identified as Fiat B.R.20's and Savoie Marchetti 79's) at 1635 dropped about 20 small bombs in Dover area, 15 in harbour, 5 in town. (V.A. Dover 1921/29)
Long Sand.	At 2215/28 aircraft dropped 2 mines or bombs apprax. on Long Sand. Wreck of CITY OF BRISBANE may have been mistaken for ship in Fairway of Edinburgh Channels and used as aiming mark. (S.O. Thames L.D.F. 1200/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Aberdeen.	Port closed due to suspected minelaying and probably opening 1200 (N.O.IC. Aberdeen 0032/29).
Humber.	Closed to navigation. Aircraft minelaying (F.O. Humber 0047/29, 0112/29 to WORCESTER, VENOMOUS, SALAMANDER, FITZROY.)
Tyne.	Closed owing to enemy mines (F.O.I.C.Tyne 0132/29). One ground magnetic mine detonated red LL at 0850/29 880 N. Tyne Pier Lt. 2¾ cables (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1040/29 Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1229/29).
Rosyth.	My 2301/28. Approach to Rosyth is open. Instructions for entering (C.in C. Rosyth 0810/29) My 0810. Both sides of QZS 152 and QZS 173 now open. Instructions for entering (C.in C. Rosyth 1251/29).
Nore.	6 to 12 objects heard to drop apparently in Medway Channel 0650. Two explosions at 0720 1 cable E.N.E. magnetic from No.5 buoy Medway Channel (XDO 0900/29).
Milford Haven.	Your 2321/22 (re clearance of minefields) Unable to commence operation today as intended, owing to weather conditions (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1033/29).
Plymouth.	Cancel my 2040/27. Port of Plymouth is open. Ships are to keep in searched channel when approaching. (C.in C. W.A. 1105/29) Port of Plymouth is closed owing to mines (C.in C. W.A. 2033/29).
Port Talbot.	Now open (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1129/29).
Aberdeen.	Opened to traffic using north side of QZS 161 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1225/29).
JAMAICA (Ncrw. 3015 tons)	Received 1425 G.M.T. from S.S. ARAYBANK, S.S. JAMAICA mined off Mckenzie Buoy standing by to pick up crew (Burnham on Sea radio No. T.O.O. Received. 1452/29) Mined in 51° 21' 30" N., 3° 8' 0" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/29). Arrived Avonmouth 30/10 (D.S. 422).
Avonmouth and Newport.	Closed; movement of shipping prohibited east of Breaksea L.V. except for entering Cardiff by swept channel (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/29, 1638/29).
Operation B.S.44.	Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Pt. 1600/31, take departure from 20 F. buoy 0800/1 returning to 21 buoy. Laying will begin at 1030/1 (S.O. M.L. Immingham 1426/29).

/ Dover. .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Dover. Routine sweeps today. 2 mines found in QZX 220 (V.A. Dover 1616/29).

C.W. HUMPHREYS. PLA Sludge vessel mined at 1530/29 near Eastoke L.V. has now sunk. Position etc. of wreck. 17 survivors, 9 of whom are injured landed at Southend from tug and pilot vessel. Believed 7 missing (C.in C. Nore 1901/29) Mined East Oaze buoy bearing E.S.E. about 2 cables. Details (C.in C. Nore 1911/29).

Harwich. Details of sweeping. 2 mines found. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1927/29).

Enemy Intelligence.

Stettin, Swinemunde, Rostock, Brunsbuttel, Cuxhaven, Emden, Wilhelmshaven, Delfzijl. } R.C. on 29/10 (P.I.U. 0110/30 to D.N.I.)

Kristiansand. Shipping on 24/10. (P.I.U. 0132/29 to N.I.D.)

Lorient. At 1500/28. 8 possibly 9 S/M's. (P.R.U. St. Eval 0200/29 to H.Q.C.C.).

Saint Nazaire / Nantes } R/C on 28/10. (P.R.U. St. Eval 0200/29 to H.Q.C.C.).

Englishmans Gat. At 0700, 7 E-Boats. A/C report. (Air Min. 1016/29 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Cruiser. German 2-funnel Cruiser about 10,000 tons, with 3 Destroyers and one Bomber passed Copenhagen at 1200/28. Assessed B.1. (British Consul, Gothenburg 1655/29 to Admty.)

La Pallice. / La Rochelle. / Gironde. } Shipping seen. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 2330/29 to Adty.)

BREMEN / EUROPA } Seen at Bremerhaven 10/10 camouflaged and fitted with D.G. rings. Assessed C.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1143/29 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

SALVIA.	Has been aground Hammon Knoll. Anchoring until dawn. No damage. (SALVIA 0600/29 to C.in C. Nore.)
SITOEBONDO.	(Dutch, 7050 tons). S.O.S. at 0720 G.M.T. in 49° 47' N. 27° 15' W., course 200 speed 4 knots. Making water. Slowly sinking. (Plymouth W/T 0833/29) (Valentia W/T. 1250/29 to Adty.) (Lands End Radio 1300/29). Pumps now running but water winning. (SITOEBONDO 1251/29) To EXETER. Secret. Proceeding. Do not want your help. (Valentia Radio 1844/29 to Adty.)
HEARTSEASE.	My position 54° 10' N. 17° 1' W. Course 095° 7 knots. HEARTSEASE in company has slight damage forward precluding steaming its head sea. (GERANIUM 1629/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
ASHANTI FAME	Progress with salvage. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1929/29 to Adty.)
BRYNMILL.	(British, 743 tons) S.O.S. in 56° 50' N. 7° 20' W. Making water. (Scapa Base Ship 1327/29) Proceed with all despatch to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/29 to ENGLISHMAN) Sailed Tug ENGLISHMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1552/29) Ship referred to in my 1450/29 believed to be BRYNMILL in 300° 12 miles from Oigh Sgeir at 1908/29. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2030/29 to ENGLISHMAN).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

S.L.S. 51.

BURZA and ANAZON to endeavour to intercept S.L.S. 51 consisting of 16 ships unescorted which may be 20 hours ahead S.L.S. 51. (route).
(C.in C. W.A. 0810/29, corrected 1054/29)

ALCANTARA's 1901/28. My position course and speed. Only HEARTSEASE with me. (ARROW, 0002/29). Not met. Hove to in 52.58 N., 18.30 W. HEARTSEASE lost touch, visibility 2 miles. (ARROW, 1015/29) Not met. Hove to vicinity of meeting position. Weather. (ROCHESTER, 1115/29).

BURZA sailed (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1059/29).

O.G. 45.

PHILANTE and TRIBUNE to act as ocean escort. (C.in C. W.A., 2203/29).

S.C.8.

Through necessity of keeping hove to have lost contact in 55.48 N., 15.36 W. C.O. injured. (SANDWICH, 1830/29). Not met. Intend proceeding Lough Foyle as ordered 1000/30. Visibility nil. (SHIKARI, 1901/29).

H.X. 60.

15 hours late at R.V. Considerable headwinds. All ships present totalling 33. (D.T.D. 1902/29).

Minesweeper Escort.

Admty. 2347/28. If weather still unsuitable, at dark today, minesweepers are to leave convoy and return to Granton. (C.in C. Rosyth to M.S. 5, 1233/29).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.4A

My 2108/26, para. 2, delete BERWICK (ocean escort) (D.O.D. (H) 2017/29). My 2108/26. Following will be ready to sail 1/11 from Liverpool. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND with R.A.F. personnel for Montreal. AKAROA for Trinidad, ABOSSO for Freetown. (D.O.D. (H) 1908/29).

/ Air Escorts .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued).

Air Escorts. To facilitate provision of air escort, essential that date of arrival in U.K. of indepen ently routed fast ships should be reliable. N.C.S.O's should ensure that arrival dates stated in Vesca telegrams are dependable, and masters are to be instructed to adjust speed so as to cross parallel of 51 degs. N. if coming from southward or meridian of 25 degs. W. if from westward so that ship will arrive at 10 degs. W. at 0600 B.S.T. on the day before date of arrival given in Vesca telegram. Similarly, fast independently routed ships are to be sailed from U.K. ports so that they will arrive at 10 degs. W. at 1800 B.S.T. These measures will enable ships to have fighter protection during daylight hours whilst passing through area of greatest danger from air attack.
(D.T.D. 1340/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

MARCELLA. Intercepted. — At 2330/28 French trawler MARCELLA flying Vichy colours intercepted in 34.50 N., 15.00 W. bound for Casablanca and allowed to proceed as weather unfit for boarding. (F.O.C.N.A. 0454/29).

Libreville. — Message from Prime Minister to C.S.L. (1 S.L., 0145/29) See Operations Volume).

French Fleet. — French ships at Casablanca 27/10. (F.O.C. N.A. 1012/29).

Casablanca. CROIX. — My 1012. Same source now reports CROIX sailed from Casablanca 28/10 loaded with munitions for Dakar. (F.O.C. N.A. 2250/29).

Bathurst. — Military reinforcement of - see South Atlantic.

North Atlantic.

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS — My 1753/20. Now reported by Consul-Gen., Lisbon, ship leaves Lisbon for South America 31/10. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C. N.A. 1913/29).

Force H. — (Force H 0748/29, see Mediterranean).

R.D.F. Patrols. — My 1006/22. Gibraltar departure 29/10. 2030, ARCTIC RANGER to relieve KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 2132/29).

South Atlantic.

Troop Transports. W.S.3A. W.S.3B. — Capetown departure 0800/29 Convoy W.S.3 A for Kilindini, Aden and Suez. CUMBERLAND as escort until relieved by CARTHAGE at 0130 transferring vicinity lr 032° 30' S. 033° 00' E. Convoy W.S. 3 B will leave Capetown 30/10 Oct. and after overtaking W.S.3 A both groups will form one Convoy W.S.3 with DORSETSHIRE as escort. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0830/29).

Convoy sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0833 Z/29).

Your 1937/28 not received until action as indicated in my 1933/28 had been taken. WINCHESTER CASTLE had already been returned to owners and has left Capetown. OROPESA has not sufficient water to reach Suez without calling at Aden. W.S.3A left Capetown as reported in my 0833/28. GEORGIC has 147 R.A.F. personnel for Aden and DUCHESS OF YORK has 172 troops for Aden and 5 for Sudan. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0845Z/29 to D. of S.T.).

/ Details of ...

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued)

Troop Transports W.S.3A W.S.3B (continued)

Details of W.S.3A route and escorts. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, to N.C.S.O. Suez, 1022/29).

Your 2211/23. Dept. of Defence, Union of South Africa, inform me very difficult to estimate transport requirements but hoped in about ten days time situation will be clearer. Meantime LLANSTEPHEN CASTLE is allocated for another trooping trip to Mombasa. Little likelihood of ship being released for some time. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1304B/29, to D. of S.T.).

WESTERNLAND.

Agreement now reached with all concerned regarding despatch of drafts for East Africa in WESTERNLAND sailing from Takoradi on or about 31/10. (W.O., to Milwestaf, Accra, No T.O.O./29)

RESOLUTION

Your 1029/22 and 1931/22. Chief Constructor Watson now on passage to Freetown in connection with RESOLUTION, should visit Lagos as proposed and if convenient Takoradi. (D. of D. to C.in C. S.A. 0340/29).

MILFORD.

To act under F.O.C. 1 C.S. until further orders. (C.in C. S.A. 1030/29)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Admty. 1438/13. Anticipated date of sailing from Freetown for Gibraltar. (C.in C. S.A. 1723 M/29).

Bathurst.

Re move from Takoradi of 4th Bn., Gold Coast Regt., R.W.A.F.F., to prevent seizure of Bathurst by coup de main. (C.O.C. W. Africa, Accra, 1840/29).

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece.

Italian Convoy.

3 or 6 Italian merchant vessels under convoy are north of Corfu. (N.A. Athens, 0935/29).

Code Words.

Army and Air Force will in future use Code word INDEX to denote Crete and Code word DRINK to denote Sua Bay in operational signals and orders. (D.M.I. to C.in C. Med., and V.A. Malta, 2012/29).

/ Greek Co-operation .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Contd.)

Greek Co-operation (contd.)	Message from President of Council to C.in C. Med. He will chase Italians out of Albania in a month if you can cut their maritime communications for that period. (Comment). All Greek bases at your disposal. Has authorized me to communicate to Greek Admty. any special activity desired by you. Am asking them to send up 3 submarines to operate inside Corfu Straits. (N.A. Athens to C.in C. Med., 0951/29).
Enemy Units.	A/C reports, 3 destroyers 062° 47 miles from 40° N., 18° E., course 000°, speed 18 knots, line ahead, 1120/29. 2 destroyers. 2 merchant vessels 044°, 50 miles, from 40° N., 18° E.,course 300° speed 8 knots, 1125/29. (V.A. Malta, 1243/29). Position course and speed enemy battle fleet 40° 22', 18° 52', 000°, 18 at 1120/29. (Capt. S.1 to PANDORA, 1331/29) Enemy reported by A/C 1120 now reported to have consisted of 3 6-in. gun cruisers. No enemy activity in Ionian Islands or Gulf of Patras. One Greek destroyer off Patras. Taranto and Brindisi not visited owing to bad weather. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1647/29).
Crete.	Your 2101/28 and 2159/28. Plans for military assistance. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1642/29) See Mediterranean Volume.
Laying of Mines.	N.A. Athens 1914/28. Unless contrary instructions received from C.in C., Med., declaration of areas dangerous owing to mines as defined in Admty. 1140/10/6 should be issued immediately as deterrent to Italians. Similar declaration will be made by H.M.G. at noon/30. Greek Govt. can be assured no mines will be laid without consultation. C.in C. Med. is however free to act as circumstances dictate in event of Greece being overrun. (Hd. of M. 1652/29 to N.A. Athens).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

Force H.
R.D.F.
SHEFFIELD.

Admty. 0315/29, (See Mediterranean Volume) Consider it essential a long range R.D/F ship shall accompany Force H. SHEFFIELD preferred as she has worked with ARK ROYAL. (S.O., Force H., 0748/29 to C.in C. Med.) Your 0749/29. Request you will withdraw SHEFFIELD from patrol in sufficient time for her to accompany Force H. (D.O.D.(F) to S.O. Force H., 2211/29).

Reinforcements.

Admty. 0315/29. My proposals are as follows. (S.O. Force H to C.in C. Med., 1201/29). See Mediterranean Volume. Amending para. E., Admty. 0315/29. (D.O.D.(F) 0957/29).

Repeat "Hurry"

Further to my 0315/29. Aircraft reinforcements, and asking whether repeat "Hurry" could be carried out as a special operation conducted by Force H. (A.C.N.S.(F) to S.O. Force H. 2133/29, corrected 2383/29). Admty. 2133. Consider Force H can do this. Repeat that I consider inclusion R.D.F. ship for this operation as well as White Collar essential. (S.O. Force H., 2331/29 to Admty.)

Air Action against Italy.

Air Min. 1719/29 see Mediterranean Volume.

East Indies.

COLOMBO.

Your 1341/28 (no trace in W.R.). COLOMBO will be vailable to escort SKLANDSI and LLAN STEPHAN CASTLE from Durban to Mombasa (date and route). Convoy will be called C.M.5. As regards CLAN CAMERON, see my 0810/28 which KANIMBLA and KENT will receive in due course. (C.in C. E.I. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1014/29).

My 1446/24. Intend calling convoy C.M.6 in view of my 1014/29. C.in C.E.I. 1016 Z/29.

Troop Transports.

Your 0402/28. Confirmed that QUEEN MARY, MAURETANIA and AQUITANIA are to return to Sydney on completion of discharge at Bombay. Request date of sailing. (D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. Bombay, 2223/29).

Bahrein.

Concur with Political Resident, Persian Gulf, 2 naval guns being landed at Bahrein does not consitute fully effective A/A defence. (C.in C.E.I. to A.D.C. British Forces, Iraq, 0810/29).

/ Raider Report. ..

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (continued).

Raider Report. My 1458/27. Mombasa Radio now reports that Kismayu Radio sometimes works commercially with Mogadishu Radio using "RRRR" and "RRR" to denote message received. (C.in C. E.I. 1034 Z/29).

B.M.S. Sailed 29/10. Details. (Embarkation S.O. Bombay Desp. 1865/29).

China.

MOGAMIGAWA MARU Your 0802/10 Japanese ship MOGAMIGAWA MARU ex GETSUYO MARU, reported departed from Shanghai 26/10 for Japan. Vessel was not sighted passing Singapore but may possibly have evaded patrol or passed through Sunda Straits. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0502/29).

America and West Indies.

Interception of HELGOLAND. S.O.I. Kingston's 2345/28. VAN KINSBERGEN proceed towards Cartagena with all despatch. DIOMEDE proceed towards Mona passage (C.in C. A. W.I. 0301/29). Your 0301. DIOMEDE sailed. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0948/29). My 0301. Assumed speed of HELGOLAND 8.1. DIOMEDE establish patrol Mona passage by sunset 31/10. VAN KINSBERGEN search coast eastward as far as Cartagena then proceed to arrive off Colon by sunrise 30/10. VAN KINSBERGEN leave Colon approach at 1700 R/30 and proceed at best possible speed to patrol Windward passage. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1001/29.

Interception of French ships on high seas. My 1254/19 C.in C. China 0331Z/21 Deputy Representative of Ministry of Shipping Vancouver enquires if H.S. BOUGAINVILLE will be permitted to clear if MARTINIQUE completes loading at British Columbia Port. Request your ruling in view of Admiralty's Natel 2003/24. Last paragraph Indo China. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1131/29.)

Your 1101/8/10 New York report A 2 Begins. S.S. CHARLES L.D. is now at Casablanca loading cargo ex Norwegian S.S. JAGABIN for U.S.A. via Martinique.

/ French .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

French apparently claim that goods are American property and that U.S.A. Gov. is concerned in arrangement. Insurance firm here is seeking war rate of insurance on general cargo value exempt 50 thousand dollards to 500 thousand dollars to be carried by CHARLES L.D. on return voyage Martinique to Casablanca. Company is asking telegraphic enquiry from France. Ends. M.E.W. and Washington informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1202/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Interception of OSORNO — S.O.I., Callao 1515/29 (not to Admty.) Proceed at best possible speed to patrol off Talcahuano to intercept German ship OSORNO BISHOPDALE will be directed to follow you south. (C.in C. A.W.I., to PRINCE ROBERT, 1901/29).

Convoy S.C.10. — Draft sailing telegram. Escort FOLKESTONE (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1030/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELGOLAND. Plans for interception (see America and West Indies).
Confirmed HELGOLAND sailed 2030 G.M.T. carrying cases machinery on deck.
Rumoured bound for Martinique (B.3) (S.O.I. Kingston, 1221/29).
My 1221/29. Barranquilla now reports time of sailing as 2030 local time not G.M.T. (S.O.I. Kingston, 2115/29).
Press reports HELGOLAND sailed Puerto Columbia last night without permit. Believes several German aviators on board from Columbia. Panamanian Air Co. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1328/29).

MADRID. Consul Las Palmas reported rumour that she is preparing to depart for Casablanca or Belmar. (F.O.C. N.A. 0025/29).

OSORNO Plans for interception (see America and West Indies).

IDARWALD Air mail letter from Capt. Fromke German Ship IDARWALD Tampico to Hamburg-America Line Hamburg, dated 14/10 states extensive repairs have been effected since September 1939 and ship is ready to sail at 24 hours notice. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1723/29).

CORDELJA Arrived Galatz from Russia (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).

LARISSA
DELOS
CORDELIA
ARKADIA
ITHACA } Left Galatz in ballast for Russia (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).

KIRSTEN MILES At Teneriffe, has taken in 100 tons coal. (D.S. 421).

TRAPANI Reported to be leaving Genoa in few days believed for Barcelona. (D.S. 421).

GALILEA. Being docked at Palermo 27/10 and having 2 rescue rafts fitted. (D.S. 421).

SCHARNHORST. Passengers arriving Shanghai from Kobe state she is being fitted as a raider. (D.S. 421).

SPEZIA. which left Valenica with cargo of lemons 22/10 is known to have been at Genoa 25/10 (D.S. 422).

ARABIC
CHIKA } Bulgarian under German charter, left during week ending 26/10 for Odessa (D.S. 422).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MIRELA. Left Corunna midday/29 reported to be for Ferrol. (Corunna, 1300/29). Arrived Ferrol where she will probably remain. (Corunna 1915/29).

TORCELLO / CELLENO } Varna reports each about 5,000 tons petroleum (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HOMESIDE. British, 4617 tons. SSSS, 53.25 N. 19.30 W. (Valentia Radio, 1109/29). In Convoy S.L. 51 (D.S. 421).

HAULERWYK (sunk 30/9) Dutch 3278 tons. ROTHLEY arrived Capetown 29/10 with 27 survivors HAULERWYK picked up in 053° 37' N. 026° 10' W. on 2/10. HAULERWYK was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo 1130/309 in 054° 28' N. 026° 33' W. and gunned by U boat at 1920/30 and sunk. No British subjects among casualties which include 4 ratings killed 7 wounded (now recovered).

PORT DENISON (sunk 26/9). ROTHLEY also reports picking up Survivors PORT DENISON 26/9 off Buchanness which were transferred same day to Naval Trawler. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1230/29).

Submarines Reported.

0200. S.S. GRACEHILL reports p/m sighted 2 miles off Mull of Galloway at 0200 heading S. (BRITISH HONDURAS, 0600/29).

1006. 47° to 49° N., 5° to 7° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 421).

1006. 58.30 N., 20° W., position very indefinite. (D.S. 420).

1056. Reported by a/c 56.00 N., 10.35 W., at 1056 (C.in C. W.A., 1127/29).

1527 and 1925. 59° to 60° N., 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 421).

1931. S.W. of Ireland, position indefinite. (D.S. 421).

U-Boat Activities. Notes on, re routes and bases. Inference is that Lorient and possibly other ports on W. Coast of France are being developed into important bases. Italian Submarines working in Atlantic are based on Bordeaux. (D.D.I.C. 1532/29).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. ....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 1 possibly Italian, S.W. of Ireland far out.

German - 1 about 250 miles S.W. of Fastnet at 1818/28 possibly bound northwards.
1 W. of Ireland bound northwards.
1 was probably in about 55 degrees 42' N. 13 degrees 04' W. at 1250/28.
1 in area 58 degrees to 60 degrees N. and W. of 20 degrees W.
1 in 56 degrees N. 10 degrees 35' W. at 1056/29 a new arrival in area.
2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 was in 57 degrees 53' N. 3 degrees 8' W. at 1200/28 possibly outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1339/29).

Submarines Attacked.

1055. By a/c 56° N., 10.35 W. Four 250 lb. bombs dropped. (D.S. 421).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

FEARLESS Damaged	FEARLESS was damaged early this morning in collision with SS LANARK which was at anchor off Gourock.
STURDY	Went aground in Tiree this morning and broke in two later, becoming a total loss.
UPRIGHT	Left Portsmouth today to join the Mediterranean Fleet.
ARK ROYAL GLASGOW Operations "White Collar" "Hurry"	ARK ROYAL with 3 destroyers arrived at the Clyde at midnight 29/30 October. She has been delayed by the weather and, with GLASGOW, PASTEUR and HESPERUS is remaining in the Clyde.
Search by M.T.B's	The two available M.T.B's at Dover left harbour at 2315/29 to intercept surface craft reported approaching the charted position of South Goodwin L.V. but were unable to get in touch. The night was very dark. The enemy are assumed to have been minelaying as mines were swept today near the position.
Convoys	Convoys have been affected by the Gale. Five ships of W.N. 26 are aground off Rattray Head Other convoys are scattered or late.
ANTHONY CORBOPSIS LEDA Damaged	Minor damage in collision has been sustained.
Dover Shelled	Dover was shelled this afternoon. There were no naval casualties.
U 237	HIGHLANDER with HARVESTER and SCIMITAR sank U 237 135 miles West of Bloody Foreland this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

A convoy of 3 ships was bombed today off Barfleur, and one ship dropped astern. Submarine L 27 was informed.

Operations last night were effected by bad weather. Attacks were, however, made on naval targets at Bremen, Wilhelmshaven, Hamburg, Flushing. Ijmuiden, Ostend and Den Helder.

Enemy Air Activity

Damage was caused at Chatham Barracks this afternoon and at Deal yesterday.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night suspected in the Thames Estuary and between the Firth of Forth and Hartlepool. See also Home Commands, search by M.T.B's.

Mines were found off Harwich and the Humber today.

M.L. 109 was mined and sunk at the entrance to the Humber today.

The following ports were opened today. Plymouth, Falmouth, Firth of Forth (completely) Newport and Avonmouth will be opened at 0600/31. Barry, Barry roads remain closed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

The commercial anchorages and northern entrance to Gibraltar were attacked this morning by what appears to be two Italian one man submarines or torpedoes. One Italian officer and one rating were picked up. One of the "torpedoes" was salved by the Spaniards.

Mediterranean

Patras was bombed twice today without damage. H.M.Govt. today declared certain areas of the Greek Coast to be dangerous owing to mines.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Code Word BLANKET proposed — For use by A.P. vessels as quick report of E.Boats heard or sighted. (V.A.Dover, 1027/30 to Adty.)

Western Patrol — (Possible Enemy attempt on Azores) Request when cruiser not available you adjust positions of A.M.C's on this Patrol to provide R/C. Squares F1, F2, and G2 well suited for this. (A.C.N.S. F. 2146/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

F.O.Force H. is requested to inform F.O.C.N.P when SHEFFIELD is expected to be withdrawn from Azores Patrol. (A.C.N.S. F. 2147/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Reply: 2/11. (S.O.Force H., 0836/31.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 0200/30 (D.C. 0340/20) At 1400/30 (D.C. 1409/30)

Movements

NIGERIA — Sailed Scapa 2345 for Plymouth westabout. (A.C.O.S. 0014/30)

DIDO — Intend anchor Fugle Fiord at 1000/30 to secure shells and free Turrets, all jammed. (DIDO 0031/30 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.) Approved to anchor. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0300/30 to DIDO)

Operations "white Collar" "Hurry" — Weather impossible for embarking Squadron. Am remaining Clyde at short notice. (ARK ROYAL 1055/30 to Adty.)

HESPERUS sailed escorting PASTEUR to R/V with ARK ROYAL as in my 1558/28 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1110/30 to Adty.) Escort PASTEUR to Clyde and report ETA (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1145/30 to HESPERUS)

My 1645/28. Proceed to Clyde. Report ETA (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1220/30 to GLASGOW) (C. in C., W.A. 1344/30 to GLASGOW)

/My 2111/29.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Operations "White Collar" "Hurry"-Contd	My 2111/29. Hurricane and Skua aircraft should be embarked as soon as conveniently possible. Ship to be ready to sail on 14/11. (V.C.N.S. 1313/30 to F.O.I.C.Greenock and ARGUS)
	ETA Clyde 1830/30. (GLASGOW 1446/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
	Admty. 2058/29. Route for Berwick as in my 1710/27 for ARK ROYAL (C. in C., W.A., 1530/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
	ARGUS will be brought up harbour to embark aircraft on 1/11. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1805/30 to Adty.)
	My 1220/30. If weather is suitable for flying intend sailing ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, FOXHOUND, DUNCAN, ISIS and SS PASTEUR to pass through position 270° Lady Island 7 at 1230 tomorrow thence in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 1710/27. Request fighter protection and air escort be arranged accordingly. (F.O.I C. Greenock 2352/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
ANTELOPE ACHATES	To sail with O.B. 237 at 2315/31 (Capt D 121705/30)
Nore Command	Movements to 1200/31 (C. in C. Nore 1200/30)
2nd Towns Flotilla	Intend sail BATH, CHARLESTON, ST MARY, ST ALBANS at 1700/30 to Port Z.A.. (C. in C. W.A. 1401/30 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
HARVESTER	My 1655/29. Will be required to sail from Liverpool about 1100/1. (C. in C., W.A. 1410 30 to HARVESTER)
Western Channel	Night Report (C. in C., W.A. 1515/30)
AGAMEMNON	My position at 2200 is 57° 3' N., 1° 54' W. course 021° speed 10 knots. (AGAMEMNON 2106/ 30 to BULLDOG)
ESCAPADE	My 1012/29. Request she be off Troon 1130/30 in preparation for docking (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2119/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Suspicious Vessel.

Carry out unit patrols from 0800/30 between 064° 50' N., 011° 00' W., and following positions.
Start from Eastern end of beat. Enemy speed 10 knots homeward. Battle cruisers and FURIOUS will patrol to South Eastward of position 064° 05' N., 008° 00' W., If nothing is sighted by dark units proceed independently to Scapa. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0031/30 to DIDO PHOEBE, SOUTHAMPTON)

My position 64° 24' N., 9° 45' W., course 135°, 10 knots. BORE X did not sight MAHOUT, but did sight a trawler on night 29th (SOUTHAMPTON 1225/30 to C. in C., H.F.)

NORTHERN SKY to R/V with SOUTHAMPTON 10 miles 360° from Kalso Light. Take over BORE X and escort her into Kirkwall. (V.A.N.P. 1445/30) R/V 10 miles 180° from Myggenaes Light at 0500/31. (SOUTHAMPTON 1740/30 to NORTHERN SKY) My position 63° 41' N., 8° 24' W. course 175° 8 knots. (SOUTHAMPTON 1805/30 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.) Your 1651. Not considered safe land fall. Am proceeding in accordance with my 1740 (SOUTHAMPTON 1855/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Iceland

(Transport of Personnel in LETITIA) your 1912/29. Concur. (F.O.C.N.P. 1057/30 to Adty.)

M.T.B's off South Goodwin Position

Acting on information received from Dover C.H.I. last night of surface craft approaching charted position of South Goodwin, the two available M.T.B's left harbour at 2315 to intercept.
Although kept informed of plotted positions of surface craft M.T.B's were unable to get in touch and sighted nothing. Night was very dark and units probably pass very close to each other. (V.A. Dover 1155/30 to Adty)

Patrol O.

My 1550/5/7. S.O. patrol O EGLINGTON (C. in C., Nore 1733/30)

/Dover .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

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/Dover .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Dover Shelled	Sixteen shells fell in the Dover area between 1349 and 1451 today Wednesday. Of these one fell in harbour five in the sea at base of cliff near Eastern Arm and nine Inland outside the town. Two military wounded. No naval or civilian casualties (V.A.Dover, 1851/30 to Adty.)
	Submarines
SWORDFISH	My 1800/27. 2 Torpedoes fired, estimate one hit. Trawlers sweeping off Cherbourg. Contamt Flying Boat A/S Patrol in W.2. SWORDFISH 0203/30 to C. in C., Portsmouth) (S. 5. 1410/30 to L. 27)
H. 28	To join FN 23 near South Shipwash Buoy. (C. in C., Rosyth 0921/30 to Adty.)
SEALION	Delayed till p.m/31 by engine efect. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/30 to S. 3.)
USK	Report when ready to proceed and request C. in C., W.A. for Escort northabout to join 6th Flotilla at Blyth (S.2. 1029/30 to USK)
L. 27 UPRIGHT	Movements (C. in C., Portsmouth 1117/30) UPRIGHT left Portsmouth 1442/30 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/30 to Adty.)
CLYDE	To arrive Position A of Q.S.S. 180 at 0900/4 (V.A.S. 1438/30 to CLYDE) Cancel my 1438/30 to CLYDE)
Bombing	My 1126/2. Havre, Lorient, Bordeaux, possibly Brest. (V.A.S. 1535/30)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0700/31. (V.A.S. 1719/30 and 2352/30)
TRIUMPH	Leaves Clyde 0830/6. Route tence. ETA position E. 0800/14 (V.A.S. 2302/30 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

30.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols Cancelled

S.A. I.E., S.A. 2 N., and cross over A/S Patrol to N.W. of Cape Wrath cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1040/30) S.A. 2 and S.A. 3 cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Rosyth 1230/30) S.A. 1 A and S 16 cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1510/30

Proposed Transfer of Aircraft from Hatston

It is under consideration to transfer 821 and 823 Squadrons from Hatston to the South West of England during the winter months. With enemy Naval forces based at Brest and the possibility of an enemy descent on Ireland, it is felt that these Squadrons would be more likely to find targets than in the comparatively few hours of daylight in the North. It is realised that these Squadrons are now primarily employed on A/S patrols. Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 1347/30 to C. in C., H.F.)

Belfast. Request Cancellation of orders to Ships

Following received from 13 group as telephone message from Aldergrove Sector who report that it originated from F.O.I.C. Belfast. Begins.
With effect from 00.01 G.M.T./24. Vessels in the Lough or in berth 1/2 mile of either side of the entrance Victoria Channel and the Abercorne basin from 1 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise are to open fire on all aircraft flying over avove areas. ends. Request these orders be cancelled immediately as being directly contrary to arrangements in your A 905 of 31/7. (H.O.F.C. 1520/30 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Convoy Bombed

Convoy of 3 ships bombed on 009° BARFLEUR 3 miles, course 060°, ay 1232. One ship has dropped astern. (Capt S. 5. 1533/30 to L. 27)

Bombing of Enemy Coastal Batteries

Request bombing of Coastal Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse from 0415 to 0545/1st during passage of C.E. 15 through Straits of Dover. (C. in C., Nore, 1702/30 to Adty.)

Plymouth Balloon Barrage

Very early approval requested to transfer of 4 balloons to other sites to safeguard searched Channel. Reasons. (C. in C., W.A. 1856/30 to Adty.)

Rattray Head

Request Fighter Patrol during daylight 31st (C. in C., Rosyth 2014/30 to H.O.F.C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Maplin Sands — VAN MEERLANT reports at 2025/29 aeroplane heard to shut of engine and shortly afterwards one heavy explosion occurred in mid air at estimated height of 5000 ft. in very approximate position over Maplin Sands. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1030/30 to C. in C., Nore)

Chatham — Personnel Block and Officers Mess badly damaged. (C. in C., Nore, 1555/30 to Adty.)

Enemy A/C Policy — Following from 35th A.A. Brigade has been passed to Naval Air Stations. Begins E/A now concentrating on attacking aerodromes by day and by night. Daylight attacks are made at dawn or dusk when heights elected vary between 100 to 4,000 to 6,000 ft Ends. (R.A.N.A.S. 1733/30 to Adty.)

Deal — During air raid yesterday 1630 at Deal, three H.E. bombs estimated 500 lbs. fell in front of A and B blocks causing several casualties and extensive damage to windows and roofs and slight structural damage to many buildings provisionally estimated at £6000 immediate repairs £1,000. (Supt. C.E. 1843/30 to Civil Lord.)

Mining

LEDA, KELLETT, ALBURY — (Minesweepers) Your 2347/28 and my 1235/29 Delayed owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 0741/30 to Adty.)

Plymouth — Port is open (C. in C., W.A. 0915/30)

Falmouth — Port now open (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0950/30)

S.N. 44 — Propose to sail at 1630/1 and lay within 5 miles of following centre line, starting at 1045 and finishing 1510/2. (R.A.M.L. 1045/30 to C. in C., W.A)

Firth of Forth — My 1301/26. Areas in Inchkeith Examination Anchorage and Leith Roads between following points may now be used. (C. in C., Rosyth 1205/30)

/Clearing....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Clearing of Minefield	(Between Coningbeg Light and 18 QZS) Adty's 2321/22. Operation cannot be begun till 4/11 owing to tides. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1305/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
Yarmouth	My 2125/29. DELAPOLE reports aircraft dropped 2 parachute flares followed by 4 splashes 400 yards N.N.E. from her and dull explosion as from bombs or mines. Her position was 1.9 miles N.E. Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1600/30 to C. in C., Nore,)
Nymphe Bank Minefield	ADVENTURE, working from Milford Haven will reinforce this field during moonlight periods, laying deep mines also on Irish side of Field. (V.C.N.S. 1631/30 to C. in C. H.F.)
Little Sole & La Chapelle Banks	During moonless periods proposed that ADVENTURE lay shallow Mines along following lines to hamper U-Boats from Biscay ports Request your early remarks. (V.C.N.S. 1631/30 to C. in C., H.F.W.A. and V.A.S.)
Newport Avonmouth	Open from 0600/31. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1752/30)
Barry Barry Roads	Remain closed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1752/30)
Harwich	148 QZS Clearance by Fleet Sweepers extended 7 cables further to eastward. 2 mines German Y type cut and sunk in position 52° 5.4' N., 01° 51.4' E., One sweep parted by anti sweeping device in approx same position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1818/30 to Adty)
Humber	Red Magnetic Mine exploded by LL 323° 4 cables from No 3 Middle Buoy. No flame, smoke or discoloration. (F.O.Humber 1839/30)
M.L. 102	Mined about 112° 5000 yards from Bull Sand Fort at 1755. M.L. 106 returned to Grimsby with 8 survivors. (F.O.Humber 2127/30 to Admty) Wreck is ashore at Holmpton near Withernsea. Salvage Officer attending. 3 missing, believed dead. (F.O.Humber 1205/31) My 2127/30 M.L. 109 was returning to harbour with unsatisfactory engines and was to south of searched channel. Position 164° Spurn Main Lighthouse 2.9 miles. No information obtainable regarding particulars of explosion (F.O.Humber 1910/31)

MOST SECRET

30.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Stettin, Swinemunde, Rostock, Cuxhaven, Emden, Wilhelmshaven Delfzijl.	R/C on 19/10 (IU 0110/30 to N.I.D.)
Boulogne, Treport, Dieppe, Fecamp, Havre Honfleur, Caen.	R/C at 1400/29 (FIU 0145/30 to N.I.D.)
Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Ijmuiden.	R/C at 1230/29 (FIU 0212/30 to N.I.D.)
German Cruiser and 3 destroyers passing Copenhagen 1200/28.	Your 1655/29. In which direction was Force proceeding. (D.D.I.C. 1114/30 to B. Consul, Gothenburg) Northgoing. (Gothenburg 1330/30 to D.N.I.) Report graded B.1. (D.D.I.C. 1748/30 to C. in C. H.F.)
German Main Units	My 1159/22. For Wilhelmshaven 21/10 read Wilhelmshaven 29/10. (D.D.I.C. 1511/30 to A.I.G. 45)
Large German S/V	ETA Brest from Atlantic about end October Speed 5 knots owing to engine trouble. (V.A.S. 2341/30 to S/M's Area B.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BIBURY KOSMOS NATLA KILLORAN	Overdue. Probable fate (See South Atlantic)
2 Lifeboats	With survivors, reported from DELANE in 54° 30' N., 13° 10' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1126/30 to Admty.)
FEARLESS	In collision with SS LANARK at anchor off Gourock at 0041/30. Damage. (FEARLESS 0209/30 to Admty.)
LISBON	British, 1984 tons. Ashore near Rattray Head. (C. in C., Rosyth 0817/30) A wreck on Rattray Briggs. (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)
SIMONBURN	British, 5213 tons. Ashore off Stonehaven Bay. Requires assistance (Scapa W/T 0600/30) Reported sinking 1500/30 in 355° 4 miles Rattray Head. Drifting Northward. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1900/30 to Adty.) Floated off p.m./30 and is drifting derelict. (C. in C. Rosyth 0947/31 to C. in C., W.A.)
BARON MINTO	British, 4637 tons. Ashore North side Stonehaven. (BARON MINTO 0607/30) Stranded on even keel (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)
CLUMBER HALL	British, 5198 tons. Ashore Rattray Head. (CLUMBER HALL 0801/30) Refloated. No damage (JASON 0925/30 to C. in C., Rosyth)
ALCORA	British, 1381 tons. Ashore Rattray Head. (C. in C., Rosyth 1057/30 to Adty.) Abandoning ship (Wick Radio 1316/30) On bean ends on sandy bottom. (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)

Position of steamers at Rattray Head noon 30/10 LISBON. Wrecked on Briggs. Crew landed at Fraserburgh 30. SIMONBURN. Abandoned and Afloat drifting north. Rescue Tug ABEILLE IV will endeavour to take in tow. Crew of 24 landed at Fraserburgh. BARON MINTO. Ashore in good position on Sand Spit Crew of 26 on board, remainder 31 landed at Fraserburgh.

/CLUMBER HALL....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Position of steamers at Rattray Head-Contd.

CLUMBER HALL, refloated, proceeding south.
ALCORA, shore 2 miles North of Rattray. Lifeboat embarking crew. Escort vessel standing by. No casualties reported. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1326/30)

Tugs ABEILLE IV and WATERMEUYER at Peterhead awaiting weather moderating to attempt salvage on BARON MINTO reported holed in engine room. Salvage Officer now at Peter-Head. Vessels cannot be boarded under present conditions PATIA has proceeded south ALTA bunkering off Fraserburgh proceeding south on completion. SIMONBURN has sunk. ALCORA practically dry at low water inside sand bank. Investigation proceeding. LISBON total wreck.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1601/31)

My 1601/30 and 0947/31. SS CLUMBERHALL arrived Methil 1500/31. SS SIMONBURN not seen by searching aircraft and is presumed to have sunk. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1651/31)

ARIDITY — (Sunk by Mine 19/10) has been raised. (D.S. 422)

SHEAF FIELD — (Mined 28/10) No considered, with cargo, to be a total loss (D.S. 422)

STROMBUS — (Mined 26/10 and beached) has broken in half and is a total loss (D.S. 422)

DUNDAS — From U.K., due Durban 28/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0935/30 to Adty.)

FLAMINIAN — British, 2711 tons. Commodore of Convoy E.N. 12 now at Methil states FLAMINIAN report being in collision at 0330/27 with an unknown vessel described as Destroyer near Kinnaird Head and was damaged above water. Arrived Oban 1300/29. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1619/30 to F.O. Tyne)

/LEDA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary -30.10.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS-Contd.

LEDA

LEDA reports has dragged across merchant ship's bows. Merchant ship undamaged. LEDA holed in tiller flat, required dockyard assistance but seaworthy in fine weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1743/30 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen)
LEDA to proceed to Aberdeen as soon as weather moderates sufficiently. (C. in C., Rosyth 1817/30 to H.S. 5.)

KINGSLAND

British, 3669 tons. Being driven ashore inside Bosie Bank. Position 58° 5' N., 3° 20' W., (KINGSLAND 2118/30) As far as we know being driven on to Clythness or Borriedale Ness. Have lifeboat standing by. (KINGSLAND 2148/30)

STURDY

At 0630 today WESTERN ISLES reported STURDY shore in about 56° 29' N., 06° 59' W. RHODODENDRON was sailed from Tobermory and tug MARAUDER from Campbeltown to her assistance. Later reported STURDY broken in half but crew safe except 2 reported drowned. No communication has been received from STURDY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1145/30 to Adty.)

4 officers and 77 ratings of STURDY sailed in RHODODENDRON for Oban ETA 2200/30.
3 officers and 19 men remaining with wreck. Ship is a total loss. Back is broken and stern turned through 90°. Body of leading stoker recovered. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1730/30 to Admty)

MOST SECRET

30.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

M.V.BORE X — Rendezvous as ordered by H.M.S. SOUTHAMPTON West of Skopen Fiord and escort Finnish M.V. BORE X to Kirkwall. Acknowledge. (S.O. Trawlers N. Patrol, 1457/30 to NORTHERNSKY)

BLACKHEATH RALLUS and KERISTAN — Sailed for Clyde 0830. Details of personnel (Alabaster 1820/29)

BULLDOG — Two large ships escorted by H.M.S.BULLDOG pass Bell Rock 1900 Northbound speed 10 knots. C. in C., Rosyth 1838/30)

Signals required — The following signal is required in connection with the sailing of convoys:-
(1) On Convoy sailing.
(A) Reference Number of Convoy.
(B) Time of sailing.
(C) Escort
(D) Number of ships in Convoy.
(2) Above signal to be addressed to, etc.
(3) In the case of W.N. Convoys the above to be repeated to, etc., (C. in C., W.A. 1927/30 to N.C.S.O. Oban)

Air Escorts — Your 1340/29. Consider it essential to give the latitude at which ships will cross 10° W. in order that our aircraft can locate them.
2. Presume routes in Western Approaches will be repeated to me. (C. in C., W.A. 1950/30 to Adty.)

SS ADDA Personnel for Faroes — (1) SS ADDA, speed 12½ knots, carrying 550 Military Reinforcement Personnel for the Faroes will be ready to sail from Liverpool about 8/11.
(2) ADDA will be required to bring back 150 personnel from Faroes to Liverpool.
(3) C. in C. H.F. to state when it will be convenient to provide escort after that date (D.O.D. (H) 2219/30)

Convoys

W.N. 26 — Allowing speed of about 4 knots. Apparent no headway was made and convoy got split. Have located 5 ships aground close to north of Rattray lighthouse. Proceeding to endeavour to render assistance. Gale blowing along shore. (JASON 0820/30 to C. in C. Rosyth)

/Further....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
W.N.26.-Contd.	Further to my 1326/30/10* SS PATIA anchored of Rosehearty. Commodore of W.N. 26 disembarked proceeding to Aberdeen. SS ALT at Fraserburgh. One vessel name unknown anchored in Aberdour Bay. SS SIMONBURN reported sinking 4 miles 355° Rattray. (N.C.I.C. Aberdeen 1656/30) * no trace in War Registry-called for.
S.C. 8.	Lost contact with S.C.8 during bad weather. My position 0800/30 056° 00' N., 009° 50' W steering 270° Speed 10 knots to 011° W. searching for convoy. (GLADIOLUS 0858/30)
	My position 55° 52' 12° 17' passing FACTO ANVERS BENEDICK PARCHENON. All proceeding Clyde not met Commodore reference MAN-O-WAR 1157 proceeding course and speed 078° 1 4 (WESTON 1350/30)
	Cmdr of Convoy and 8 ships in company including MAN-O-WAR. Estimated p.c. and s. at 1600/30 55 23 N., 11 26 W., 062° altering to 092° at 2330 speed 7½ (CAMPANULA 1601/30)
H.X. 81.	Separated from H.X. 81 in the gale. My observed position at 1000 059° 00' N., 012 22' W., course-degrees 137 making good 10 knots. GLOXINIA in company. Join me in 058° 15' N., 011° 00' W. at 1630 today. From latter position intend steering for 058° 00' N., 010° 00' W.(Weather) (ABERDEEN 1030/30 to WALKER, VANSITTART)
	Observed p,c and s. 057° 00' N., 014° 20' W. 099° 15 for splitting 0800/31. (GARDENIA 1710/30)
	My 1030/30. WALKER and VANSITTART have joined me. His intentions. (ABERDEEN 1815/30)
H.G. 46.	Convoy H.G. 46 due to leave Gibraltar 30/10 (route) through (R.V. with local escort) (F.O.C.N.P. 1200/30 to LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS, DERBYSHIRE, CILICIA, SALOPIAN, CAMITO.

/O.C. 45.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys-Contd.

O.G. 45

O.G. 45 sailed 1122/30 4 ships 8 knots escort WANDERER, WILD SWAN, CLARE. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1220/30)

S.L. 51

My p, c and s are 053° 40' N., 107° 16' W., 081° 16. No ship in sight visibility good. At 1930 will alter course to 261° speed dependent on weather. Request instructions. (ALCANTARA 1400/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 1400/29. My position course and speed is now 054° 07' N., 013° 18' W., 057° 8 knots. State of weather. (PRIMROSE 1500/30)

Ships scattered from convoy S.L. 51 may be met between 053° N., 018° 30' W., and 053° 50' N., 015° 40' W., during tonight Wednesday. (F.O. (S) 1547/30 to CLYDE)

Met in position 055° 03' N.,012° 10' W., 26 ships. (ARROW 1630/30)

My p, c and s 2130/30 054° N., 014° W., 060° 8. GERANIUM in company. Expect to overtake Convoy at daylight tomorrow, Thursday. Have closed down one boiler owing to bad leakage in joint. (HEARTSEASE 2020/30)

On convoy splitting ROCHESTER PRIMROSE are to remain with Liverpool portion. (C. in C., W.A. 2043/30)

On convoy splitting GARDENIA is to remain with Liverpool portion. (C. in C., W.A. 2051/30)

Proceed North Channel at best speed. Further instructions as to onward route will be signalled. (C. in C., W.A. 2351/30 to ALCANTARA)

O.B. 235
H.X. 82

My p,c and s, 1200/30 057° 14' N., 016° 00' W., (?134°) 8 knots. WITHERINGT N, Commodore and 8 ships in company, remainder split up by a storm and presumably in groups nearby with remaining escorts. Am detaching WITHERINGTON at dark 30th with orders to endeavour to locate remaining escorts and to refuel these only. Do not know fuel state of remaining escorts. It will be necessary for VETERAN to leave H.X. 82 to refuel at dark Saturday 2nd. Barometer 967 visibility 6 dry bulb 55 wet bulb 54 wind direction 190 force 5. (VETERAN 1400/30)

/owing to....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

O.B. 235
H.X. 82- Contd.

Owing to D/F of U-Boat at 1511/30 in 58° 30' N., 18° 00' to 21° 00' W. on passing through 57° 28' N., 16° 40' W., O.B. 235 is to steer for 57° 00' N., 25° 00' W., where convoy is to disperse. (C. in C., W.A. 1627/30

W.N. 27

Your 1255 all crew saved. Search for survivors unnecessary. SOUTHERN FLOWER being sent to tow. (A.C.C.S 1415/30 to FOWEY)

W.N. 27 will remain under Lee of coast west of Dunnet Head for the night attempting passage of Pentland Firth at daylight. Request Dunnet Head Light from 0600. (FOWEY 1623/30)

1

Following received from R.A.F. Commodore starboard quarter from LA MALOUINE course and speed 195 5 following ships in company AENUMA numbers 42 43 52 53 and H.M.S. LINNET request instructions ends. Time of origin 1145. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1514/30)

O.B. 236
H.X. 82

Local escorts of O.B. 236 will be required to reinforce H.X. 82 a.m./2/11. Convoy is therefore to steer (route) (C. in C., W.A. 1705/30 to BROKE, MALCOLM, SARDONYX ARABIS, HELIOTROPE)

W.N. 28

My 1546/28 to FLEETWOOD only. Meet W.N. 28 code word MUTUAL due Cape Wrath 0030/1 and Duncansby Head 1030/1. (C. in C., Rosyth 1741/30 to FLEETWOOD)

E.N. 14

My portion at 2030 bearing approximately Cape Wrath 7 miles course 274° speed 7 knots bound south through Minches E.N. 14 scattered until the weather moderates gale and poor visibility ships od convoy steamship CORUELO FLORIAN DILIGENT. HASTURTION and remainder of convoy not seen. BLUEBELL searching off Skerries for Stragglers. (HIBISCUS 2030/30)

E.N. 15

E.N. 15 309 Buchan Ness 2000 speed made good to 6 knots. (BERKSHIRE 2025/30)

/O.B. 237.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys-Contd.

O.B. 237

Intend to sail ANTELOPE, ACHATES at 2315/31 with O.B. 237. (Capt D (12) 1705/30)

W.S. 4 A

Intend sailing Liverpool section of W.S. 4 A with ABOSSO and AKAROA escorted by HURRICANE and HARVESTER at 1300/1/11 speed of advance 13 knots to R.V. with Newport and Clyde Sections as in C. in C., W.A. 1537/28. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND will sail 1700/1/11 and will R.V. at Clyde Section R.V. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1745/30)

Cancel my 1248/29/10. Intend to sail SALOPIAN with Clyde portion of W.S. 4 A on 1/11 parting company with convoy in 50° 00' N., thence West of areas F 3 and G 3 to Area H 3. (F.O.C.N.P. 2220/30)

Sailing of Newport Section W.S. 4 A delayed 10 hours. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2315/30)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

CANADA

Admiralty's 1913/28 CANADA had sailed from Toulon before thai reached me. I have informed French Admty. but French N.A. request that you give these route instructions to her when she passes Gibraltar on 1/11. If she does not received any instructions she will route MASSILIA signalling her position to Admty. when in 55° 35' N., 7° 15' W., (N.A. Madrid 1202/30 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

French Trawlers etc.,

Numerous French trawlers and sailing vessels left St. Pierre between 23rd and 26th October probably for Casablanca. They should be sent to United Kingdom Ports. (F.O.C.N.A. 1723/30 to Ships etc., N.A.)

Passengers by air to Libreville

According to intercepted W/T message French Military Authorities commandeered a Sikorsky (F A O X E) to carry 6 passengers and 1200 pounds material from Cotonou to Libreville on 16/10. A Colonel and a Captain were refused passage to Libreville on 26/10, the mail plane being fully booked as result of Naval requisition. (C. in C., S.A. 1855N/30)

Exchange of Prisoners of War

Your 1809/25. French N.A. informs me that he has no reply but that he knows intentions of French Govt. are to retain French Emissaries of General de Gaulle whome they regard as rebels.
I have asked him to repeat urgently subs ance of last para of your 1809/25 and have emphasized great importance of matter. (N.A.Madrid 1929/30)

STRASBOURG etc.

See C.G. Tangier's 1628/30 Addressed Admiral Gibraltar repeated F.O. 614/30 (F.O.C.N.A. 1854/30)

C.G. Tangier's 1638/30 and my 1854/30. Is passage of these ships to be interfered with or are they to be shadowed. All available ships are at short notice. (F.O.C.N.A. 1956/30 to Admty.)

Your 1956/30. If STRASBOURG, one or more cruisers or 4 or more destroyers pass through the Straits they should be shadowed from ahead and if they attempt to proceed to the northward they must be prevented after due warning.

/If they.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

STRASBOURG etc. Contd.

If they proceed to the southward they should not be interfered with and should not be shadowed except in the case of STRASBOURG. (1st. S.L. 2126/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

2%. Your 2126/30. destroyer patrol has been established in vicinity of meridian Alboran. (F.O.C.N.A. 2334/30 to Admty.)

R.C. of Port Gentil & Libreville

My 2249/28. No trace of receipt in W.R. 4th reconnaissance of Port Gentil today showed PONCELET or similar submarine anchored off town. Submarine had awnings furled and fired on reconnaissance aircraft. At Libreville which was also visited BOURGAINVILLE did not open fire. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 2055/30 to C. in C., S.A.)

Aircraft Reconnaissance of Gibraltar

French reconnaissance aircraft flew over Rock 1220 today but was quickly driven off. (Gov. Gib. 3191/30, T.O.O. 2350/30)

North Atlantic

Gibraltar. Attack by One-Man Submarines

Commercial anchorages and norther entrance were attacked this morning by what appears to be 2 Italian one-man submarines or torpedoes. One Italian officer and one rating picked up. No damage. (F.O.C.N.A., 1246/30) Further details. One "torpedo" salved by Spaniards. (F.O.C.N.A. 2352/30)

Troops

Re disposal. Re Admty 0315/29 etc., (W.O. 86901/30)

Greek Troops

Greek authorities at Lisbon have been asked if there is any way of transporting Greek Troops from Spain back to Greece. (N.C.S.O.Lisbon, 1531/30 to Admty.)

Repatriation of French

Asking that French under age who took refuge in England at end of June may be repatriated. (N.A.Madrid 1900/30)

/ARK ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

ARK ROYAL
ARGUS
"HURRY"

S.O. Force H 1950/30. See Mediterranean Volume.

Operation "White Collar"

My 2109/26. FEARLESS will not now accompany this force as she is damaged. (D.O.D.(H.) 2009/30 to F.O.C.W.A.)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE Survivors, (torpedoed 5/10)

28 Officers and men of H.M.Trawler KINGSTON SAPPHIRE leave Huelva tonight by British ship for Gibraltar (N.A.Madrid 1948/30)

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE

My 1807/N/23. On arrival Takoradi to escort WESTERNLAND to Capetown by direct route. After fuelling Capetown to proceed to South America Division, A & W.I. in accordance R.A.S.A.D. 1445Z/25. (C. in C., S.A., 1109/30)

Convoys, WS 3 B WS 3 A, WS 3

Movements. Escort, DORSETSHIRE (N.O.1/c Simonstown 0840/30)

W.S. 3 B

Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0845Z/30, N.C.S.O. Capetown 0921/30)

DUNDAS Overdue

Due Durban 28/10 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0935/30)

Convoy S.L. 54

R.V. (position) (time) N.C.S.O. Freetown 1159/30)

BIBURY
KOSMOS
NATIA
KILLORAN
Overdue

The following ships are seriously overdue: BIBURY sailed Milford Haven 28/8 due Buenos Aires 25/9 and KOSMOS sailed Belgrade 12/9 for Curacao where she was expected about 10/10. The present assumptions are BIBURY should have been near position 500 miles westward Cape Verde Island about 15/9 and KOSMOS near position 500 miles North Pernambuco about 30/9. NATIA is likely to have been victim of attack in 001° N 032° W on the 8/10 reported by HIGHLAND PRINCESS and DEFOE. KOSMOS and NATIA all have met the same raider about dates and in position given. Finnish BARQUE KILLORAN left Buenos Aires 15/6 for Las Palmas and has not been heard of since. (C. in C., S.A. 1251N/30)

/Suspicious ship..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Suspicious Ship Sighted 22/10 by ERRIA

Master of ex Danish ship ERRIA reports sighting at 1830 Z/22 on 015° 25' S., 000° 20' W., cargo ship in ballast steering 142° Italian appearance speed 3 knots when sighted Ship altered 8 points to starboard to evade him and increased speed.
Description not unlike ALCANTARA raider (description)
Ship cannot be accounted for here. Can you identify? (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1404/30 to S.O. (I) Capetown)

P.V's

No ship is to stream paravanes on leaving Freetown until westward of 013° 20' W
P.V's are to be hoisted in requirement by incoming ships before arriving at this Meridian.
These orders are applicable to all merchant ships as well as to men of war. (C. in C., S.A. 1615N/30)

Mediterranean

Italian Campaign Against Greece

Operation 31/10

By 2 Greek destroyers (N.A.Athens 1 54/30)

Greek Troops

Re transport from Spain. (see North Atlantic)

Mediterranean Fleet

Plans for next few days (C. in C., Med. 1307/30, 1315/30) See Mediterranean Volume.

CANADA

Your 1225/28. Information requested as to definite sailing date, speed and expected time of arrival of French hospital ship CANADA. (D.O.D. (H) to N.A. Madrid 1230/30)

Combined Operations

Your 2041/25, re block of words for use during combined operations. This is acceptable. Words in my 1055/22 may be used for any purpose you wish. (D.W.I. to C. in C., Med., 1101/30)

Assistance....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Assistance to Turkey	Message for Admiral Kelly. (1st S.L. 2220/30) See Mediterranean Volume.
2 M.V's	Air R.C. (? 0347 reported) 2 M.V'S 3000 tons stationary 10 miles off Ras Hibab 1600/30 (? Capt S. 1 to OSITIS 2350/30)
RORQUAL LANDORA	Orders for returning to Malta. (V.A.Malta 0945/30)
Lubricants for Turkey	Your 1131/28. You may authorize oil companies in Egypt to supply as requisite. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1923/30 to C. in C., Med.)
New Aircraft	Your 1159/28. 2 arrived Takoradi on 28/10 in SANGARA. 2 arrived Freetown on 26/10 in HENRY STANLEY and 2 more in SWEDRU left Freetown 26/10. All personnel are divided between these 3 ships. 5 more aircraft were despatched but the 2 ships were damaged and had to return. 4 more now embarked in CONGONIAN sailed from U.K. 29/10.(D.N.A.D. 1348/30 to C. in C., Med.)
Exchange of Prisoners	Your 2133/20. A Cabinet decision was taken at the beginning of the war that there should be no exchange of prisoners whatsoever other than wounded under the provisions of the Geneva Convention. (Hd. of N.L. 2232/30 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.3. Re. (C.in C. E.I. 1138/30).

R.N.Ob My 0014/22. Movements altered (C.in C. E.I. 1140 Z/30).

BRITANNIC. Left Suez 28/10 with families for evacuation to S.A. Details. (C.in C. M.E. Q.M.2/24060).

KIMBERLEY. My 1456/24 Para. 3. Result of trials. KIMBERLEY reports satisfactory up to 25 knots. Ship considers it inadvisable to exceed this speed except in cases of urgency. (C.in C. E.I. 1754/30).

America and West Indies.

Convoy H.C.10. FOLKESTONE sailed from Sydney 29/10 ocean escort S.C.10. (S.O.I. Halifax, 0157/30).

Escort for French Merchant Ships. Admty. 1656/14 to N.A. French ship SAN FRANCISCO left New York to join French ship WINNIPEG from New Orleans off Fire Island time of rendezvous 2130 G.M.T./30. Vessels proceeded in company 12 knots route by French 40° 38' N. 50° W. Great Circle 55° 38' N. 10° W. expected to arrive position 55° 38' N. 70 W. at 0830/G.M.T. 12/11. Approach route Liverpool issued by Admiralty through Naval Attache received by both vessels. (N.C.S.O. New York 1551/30).

MARGAREE survivors. PORT FAIRY arrived Bermuda 29/10 with 6 Officers and 28 Ratings survivors from MARGAREE. Enquiry is taking place now at Bermuda. PORT FAIRY will be delayed at Bermuda about 4 days for temporary repairs to make her seaworthy. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1702/29).

BISHOPDALE. My 1901/29. BISHOPDALE has been ordered to r.v. with you in 38° 30' S. 74° 00' W. at 1600Z/14/11. If unable to make this rendezvous she will proceed into Callao pass expected date of arrival at r.v. to me by Cable. Callao pass to PRINCE ROBERT. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1731/30 to PRINCE ROBERT).

PRINCE ROBERT.

BISHOPDALE. Cancel previous orders. Proceed forthwith to R.V. in 038° 30' S. 074° 00' W. at 1600 G.M.T./14/11. If unable to do this proceed into Callao and inform Navy Bermuda by telegram expected date of arrival at rendezvous. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1742/30).

/ A/C tender and planes...

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued).

A/C tender and planes.

Washington 2400/30 to F.O. Recommend that U.S. proposal to send A/C tender and planes to St. Lucia should be adopted.
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1741/30 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

One German M.S. reported in 46.55 N., 09.15 W. at 0850 proceeding east. (V.A.S., 0933/30, to Submarines on Patrol, Area B).

USARAMO. Confirmed that this is the 10,000 ton German ship reported at Pasajes 28/10. (D.S. 422).

KULMERLAND. which left Kobe 9/10 has now been located in a Kobe shipyard transferred to Japanese flag and renamed TEIYO MARU (D.S. 422).

HUMBERLAND. Rumoured she is soon to be transferred to Japanese flag (D.S. 422).

STORMARN. STORMARN with cargo of iron ore is preparing to sail on or about 1/11. Probable destination Bayonne. (Bilbao 1825/30).

BRAKE
NORD ATLANTIC
LA PLATA. My 1133/25. Transfer of 200 tons of lubricating oil from BRAKE to NORD ATLANTIC complete. LA PLATA and BRAKE taking provisions. (Actg. Consul, Vigo 1906/30.)

SESOSTRIS Curacao 1944/30 stated K.N.S.M. Agent Puerto Cabello reports SESOSTRIS now ready for sea steam up. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 2017/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

LISBON. British, 1984 tons. SSSS, near Aberdeen, torpedoed, requires immediate assistance. (Wick, 0827/30) LISBON ashore near Stonehaven (Scapa W/T, 0818/30) See also Casualties and Defects.

BALZAC. British, 5372 tons. Received at 1239 G.M.T. SSSS 55.37 N., 13.26 W., BALZAC shelled 1240/30. (Port Patrick Radio, no T.O.O./30). S/M distress, shelled, 55.37 N., 13.26 W. (Scapa W/T, 1243/30) BALZAC's SSSS of 1142/30 from Land's End Radio. If in vicinity and fuel permits, attack submarine. (C.in C. W.A. 1300/30).

Met BALZAC not hit in 055° 38' N. 012° 22'W. at 1800 torpedo exploded 50 yards on quarter, submarine not sighted. HIGHLANDER proceeded 1700 to join Commodore S.C.8 and 6 ships whom I passed in position 055° 12'N. 012° 30' West at 1300/30 course 080° 7 knots escorted by CLARKIA and ?MAN O WAR. HIGHLANDER intended leaving convoy if further support arrived or on reaching 007° W. My E.T.A. Clyde 0900/31. (HARVESTER 1815/30).

USKBRIDGE (torpedoed 17/10) Ref. C.in C. A.W.I. 1033/28. Master of TOFDALSFJORD also reports NEVA as showing lights on port side visible at least 5 miles for at least 4 hours before first attack. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, N.S. 0950/30).

BALTROVER. British, 4916 tons. Following has been read. SSSS. 54° 22' N. 23° 47 W. BALTROVER. Submarine now about to open fire. Course 050 speed 10 knots firing at Submarine. (Portsmouth W/T 1750/30, Nore W/T 1750/30).

Following received from Port Patrick Radio:- Navy Charge Greenock V Coast Guard Port Patrick. Intercept at 1806 G.M.T. de Valencia Radio. Corrected position of 1800 G.M.T. 54.30 N. 23.26 W. BALTROVER course 050 speed 11 knots. (Greenock 1804/30 Scapa Base Ship 1907/30).

54 22 N 23 47 W
BALTROVER submarine sighted.
(Scapa Base ship T.O.R. 1828)

54° 22 N 23° 47 W BALTROVER course 050 speed 10 knots firing at submarine.
(Scapa Base Ship 1849/30).

BALTROVER sighted Submarine in 054° 22' N. 023° 47' W. at 1830.
(C.in C. W.A. 1857/30 to PRETORIA CASTLE, CLYDE).

/ H.X. 72. .....

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

H.X.72. Admiralty 2153/12 R.A.3 B.S. re darkening of ships it is noted that the C.O. of one of the escorts of HX 72 has reported that matches, cigarettes and open doors were visible all round from astern. This convoy subsequently incurred a number of casualties. It is requested that this may be promulgated to authorities at assembly ports at Home and overseas.
(G.in C. W.A. 2005/30 to Adty.)

Submarines Reported.

1105. D/F, probable U/B, 56.30 N., 14° to 17° W. (D.D.I.C. 1142/30).

1343. A.F. Message 55.37 N., 13.26 W. (D.D.I.C. 1517/30) (BALZAC shelled).

1611. D.F., probable U/B, 58° to 58.30 N., 18° to 21° W. (D.D.I.C. 1556/30).

1855. By D.F. very approx. position 44° 40' N. 2° W. (V.A.(S) 2031/30).

Estimated U-boat dispositions.

Italian - No news.
German - 1 may enter Lorient tonight.
1 may have been in 53 degs 25' N. 19 degs 30' W. at 1109/29.
2 are probably in area 58 degs to 60 degs N. and W. of 17 degs W.
1 was in 56 degs N. 10 degs 35' W. at 1058/29.
1 was in about 56 degs 30' N. between 14 degs and 17 degs W. at 1106/30.
1 may possibly reach N.W. Approaches today from the North.
(D.D.I.C. 1213/30)

Submarines Attacked.

By HARVESTER (see BALZAC) U.557 sunk by [illegible]. Attacked doubtful contact with one depth charge at 1829/30 in 56.50 N., 15.25 W. About one square mile of surface covered with oil fuel after attack but contact not regained. Considered non-sub. (VERITY, 1205/31).

MOST SECRET

31.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Force Under H.C. 1. SOUTHAMPTON is escorting the Finnish BORE X intercepted 30/10 east of Iceland, towards Kirkwall. The remaining units of the force are returning from the search for suspected raider. AUSTRALIA was ordered to return on 29/10.

FORMIDABLE FORMIDABLE (new Aircraft Carrier) commissioned today at Belfast.

CELTE French CELTE was intercepted at 0009/31 by ships of the Northern Patrol and was ordered to Greenock in detention. The ship was flying a yellow triangular flag under her ensign.

Western Patrol An additional object of the Western Patrol is now to provide reconnaissance against possible enemy attempt to capture the Azores.

Operations "White Collar" "Hurry" ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, DUNCAN, ISIS and FOXHOUND sailed from the Clyde today.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command Heavy attacks were made last night on Antwerp and Flushing, with success. Emden was also attacked.
Two E-Boats were attacked this afternoon off the Somme Estuary and a near miss obtained.

Coastal Command Two of 3 Hudsons on offensive reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast from Skudesness Fiord to Lister Light bombed a 3000 ton merchant vessel 6 miles north of Lister, at about 1240 today, scoring one direct hit amidships.

A/S Patrols The Air Ministry have ordered certain patrols to be instituted with the object of detecting and destroying U-Boats on passage off the Irish Coast.

MOST SECRET

31.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS STARSTONE in convoy OB 238 was bombed and damaged this morning in the Atlantic 200 miles west of Ireland. She is proceeding to the Clyde.

SS BALTRADER in Convoy W.N. 26 was machine gunned at noon today off Rattray Head. At 1430 she fired 2 rounds at an aircraft with no marks visible, approaching her, and she also sent out S.O.S. The aircraft sheered off landwards and showed British markings.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off North Foreland, Thames Estuary and Harwich.

Explosions occurred today near PRIMROSE 20 miles N. of Tory I. and near WALLACE in Firth of Forth. Explosions were seen in mid air and on surface of the water, last night, in the Thames Estuary, and off Plymouth this morning. One mine was detonated off Liverpool

M.T.B. 22
M.T.B. 16
Mined

M.T.B. 22 was mined this morning in the Thames Estuary, and was damaged. M.T.B. 16 was mined about an hour later, in the Thames Estuary, and sank early this afternoon off Harwich after being taken in tow by M.T.B. 31.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

French Destroyers at Sea

At 0610 today GRIFFIN was shadowing 5 destroyers 70 miles S.E. of Almina Point, steering westward. S.O.Force H, in RENOWN with BARHAM and 4 destroyers left Gibraltar at 0900 to investigate, 5 more destroyers proceeding later in the day to join Force H.

Five French Destroyers passed Gibraltar today at 1315 from East to West.

CUBA Intercepted

MORETON BAY this afternoon intercepted the French CUBA bound from Martinique to Casablanca, but steering a course as if for Dakar, about 700 miles west of Canary Is. There are about 1216 sailors on board.

Submarines at Dakar

It is reported that 4 French submarines and a tanker with diesel oil arrived at Dakar 28/10. DRAGON, due at Bathurst is making further enquiries. C. in C., S.A. has established air and naval patrol to southward of Freetown, but the vessels may already have passed.

Mediterranean

COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, PROTECTOR, FARNHAM, FIONA, CHAKLA and 4 destroyers with two tankers are due at Suda Bay p.m. today, to establish a fuelling base. AJAX with a battalion of York and Lancaster Regt. is due tomorrow.

East Indies

Perrim was bombed today, without damage.

CHAKDINA on Perrim patrol was ineffectively bombed this morning.

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western Patrol. — Additional object of Western Patrol is now to provide R/C against possible Enemy attempt to capture Azores (F.O.C. N.P. 1500/31 to Western Patrol).

Shetlands. — Suggest that separation of Orkneys from Shetlands for administration and operational purposes has noticeably reduced delay and should be continued. (F.O.C.S. 2145/31 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 0200/31. (D.C. 0242/31). At 1400/31 (D.C. 1405/31).

Movements.

COMORIN. — To enter Scapa at first light today and anchor to await onward Escort. (A.C.O.S. 0040/31 to COMORIN). You are routed as follows (F.O.C.O.S. 1132/31 to COMORIN).

Operations "White Collar", "Hurry". — Pass to 1515. Join DUNCAN by 0830. (ARK ROYAL 0456/31 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow). Sailed ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, DUNCAN, ISIS, and FOXHOUND, with s.s. PASTEUR in company, routed as by C.in C. W.A. 1710/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1410/31 to Adty.).
3 Destroyers from Nore Command to arrive Clyde by P.M./3 to escort ARGUS clear of U-Boat zone and to be under orders of C.in C. W.A. (V.C.N.S. 2156/31 to C.in C. Nore.
ARGUS to be sailed from Clyde for Gibraltar on 4/11 escorted through U-Boat zone by Destroyers detailed by C.in C. W.A. C.in C. Portsmouth requested to detail either DESPATCH or DUNEDIN to act as Ocean Escort and to arrive Clyde by P.M./3. Cruiser detailed will join Force H temporarily and escort ARGUS to U.K. on completion of Operation HURRY.
C.in C. W.A. requested to issue necessary instructions. (V.C.N.S. 2231/31).
VENOMOUS, VESPER, and WINDSOR to sail for Clyde at 0830/1 to arrive P.M./3 if possible. (C.in C. Nore 2340/31 to D.21).
Intend sail BERWICK at 1100/1 as by 2058/29. C.in C. W.A. requested arrange Air Escort and Fighter protection. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1851/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Harwich M.T.B's. — Your 1013/31 (?1033/31 intended) All remaining M.T.B's are to be recalled to Harwich and are to remain there for the present. (C.in C. Nore 1111/31 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.).

/ Nore Command. .....

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

Nore Command.	Movements to 1200/1. (C.in C. Nore 1200/31)
AGAMEMNON.	ETA. Port ZA. 0630/1. (AGAMEMNON 1515/31)
Portsmouth.	Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1523/31)
Orkneys.	Positions at 2000/31. (A.C.O.S. 1531/31).
Rosyth.	Movements for Night 31/1. (C.in C. Rosyth 1641/31 and 2350/31).
ARROW.	ETA. 2230. AMAZON in company. (ARROW 1955/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
NIGERIA.	Request you sail for Plymouth tomorrow to pass Penlee Point at 1700. (C.in C. W.A. 2201/31 to C.S.10).
CHALLENGER, CURACOA, DIDO, KEPPEL	ETA. Scapa. CHALLENGER 2330, CURACOA 2345, DIDO and KEPPEL 0040. (A.C.O.S. 2216/31).

Operations.

Suspicious Vessel.	Have not received 1445/30 from F.O.C.N.P. No details of R/V. Proceeding Skopen Fiord. Position 61° 42' N. 8° 24' W. Course 072° speed 8 knots. (NORTHERN SKY 0400/31 to SOUTHAMPTON).
Operation LUCID	NIGER, SPEEDWELL, SELKIRK to join Force B. SUTTON, GOSSAMER, ELGIN to join Force A. (C.in C. Nore 1026/31 to D.21, etc.). W/T watch as follows on leaving Sheerness (C.in C. Nore 1310/31). Owing to Mine Casualties and Weather, not now possible for M.T.B's and M.L's to be ready for Operation tomorrow. Operation therefore postponed. It will be carried out on Night 2/3 if Dover Minefield sufficiently cleared. (C.in C. Nore 2058/31 to Adty.)
VANOC. VOLUNTEER.	Patrol Eastwards tonight as cover for Convoy C.E.15. They may proceed Southward, keeping clear of S/M Areas W2 and S.3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/31 to Adty.)
Western Patrol.	DERBYSHIRE and CILICIA take Area F.2. and G.2 respectively from 2000/2. SALOPIAN take Area F.1 on arrival. Territorial Waters should not be entered or presence made more conspicuous than necessary. (F.O.C.N.P. 1500/31 to Western Patrol 22).

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

CACHALOT)
TARN
CLYDE
ROSEMARY)

Movements 2 to 4/11. (Capt. S.2. 1024/31)

0.24. — At 0900/29 unsuccessfully attacked M/V. 1200 tons off Holmengraa. (0.24 1301/31 to S.2.)

H.34. H.1. — Intend sail H.34 from Rothesay at 1100/3 escorted by BREDA for Tobermory. ETA. Tobermory 0900/4. WESTERN ISLES requested sail H.1. for Rothesay escorted by BREDA on arrival to carry out operation in W.S. 1716/30. (Capt. S.7. 1436/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Bombing. — My 1126/2. Havre, Lorient, Bordeaux. (F.O.S. 1534/31 to S/M's Area B).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0700/1. (V.A.S. 1639/31).

British Air Activity.

German Transport sunk. — Swedish press reports sinking off Sogne Fiord 26/10 of a German transport of about 2500 tons as result of air attack. (Air Min. D.S.)

Nore. — No air R/C. (C.in C. Nore 0819/31 to Adty.)

Proposed occasional Fighter A/C at Sumburgh. — Recently the visits to Shetland of enemy aircraft have been increasing in frequency and this and their behaviour make it clear they have knowledge that our Fighters have left. It is suggested that it might be worth considering that occasionally and for a few days at a time a Fighter or two should be sent to Sumburgh to take advantage of this. (F.O.C. 0910/31 to Adty.)

S.A. 1 E. — Postponed owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/31).

S.A. 2 N. — Cancelled. No A/C available. (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/31).

Plymouth Balloon Barrage. — C.in C. W.A. 1102/29. Concur proposals close hauling water borne sites to 300 feet in emergency. Naval authorities must accept possibility of frequent balloon losses which may not be quickly replaceable in unfavourable weather and with difficulties of gas supply. Consider re-siting of sites 43 and 44 on land

/ involving .....

British Air Activity. (Continued).

Plymouth Balloon Barrage (contd.)

involving move 500 to 600 yards Eastward does not materially affect protection of anchorage and urge re-consideration by local authorities in order to minimise possible losses.
(H.Q. Balloon Command 1050/31 to Air Ministry).

Balloon Command's 1050/31. Admiralty accept possibility of loss of balloons and request your concurrence to C.in C. Western Approaches' proposals contained in his message 1102/29. Question of re-siting of sites 43 and 44 to be taken up subsequently by local authorities as suggested by Balloon Command.
(D. of L.D. 1316/31 to Air Ministry).

Arrangements agree locally for the close-hauling of water borne sites to 300 feet in emergency are confirmed and should be carried out. Local authorities should reconsider the suggestion contained in my A.438/26/10 paragraph 2(B) regarding sites 43 and 44.
(Air Ministry 1835/31 to Air Commands).

Bombing of Enemy Coastal Batteries.

Request action on C.in C. Nore's 1702/30.
(Air Ministry 1051/31 to Bomber Command).

Nore 1702/30. Available aircraft of Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to bomb coastal battery positions between Calais and Ambleteuse between 0415/0545 hours Friday 1st November during passage of convoy C.E.15 through Straits of Dover.
(H.Q.C.C. 1255/31 to 16 Group).

Action requested in C.in C. Nore's 1702/30 is being taken by Coastal Command.
(Air Ministry 1515/31 to Bomber Command).

Plymouth. Proposed transfer of 4 Balloon Sites.

C.in C. W.A. 1856/30. Concur. Request your very early consideration and concurrence. (D. of L.D. 1109/31 to Fighter Command).

Hatston. Proposed Withdrawal of A/C.

Adty's 1347/30. Consider retention of these 2 Squadrons at Hatston is necessary. Reasons. (A.C.O.S. 1216/31 to C.in C.H.F.)

Belfast. Orders to Ships to fire on A/C.

If instructions in F.O. Signal A.269/30/10 have been given by F.O.I.C. Belfast, request they be cancelled as contrary to my A.905/31/7. (Air Ministry 1323/31 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Rosyth A/A Defences. Your 009/25. Arrangements already made meet your requirements. As from 1200/23/10 all aircraft are routed so as to avoid the Rosyth defended area. No.13 group controller has been temporarily authorised as from 1200/23/10 to permit barrage fire to be opened against raids which appear likely to threaten the vital area. (Air Ministry 1400/31 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

STARSTONE. British, 5702 tons. Bombed in 54° 11' N. 15° 30' W. (Valentia Radio 0906/31) Proceed to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1037/31 to ALCANTARA) Burning in forehold (STARSTONE. Received 1040/31). Have found STARTSTONE in 53° 11' N. 15° 35' W. She reports five under control and can proceed to Clyde at 5 knots. Requires Tug or Trawler. 1 killed, several injured. (ALCANTARA 1248/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

B.C.1. One A/C shadowing at 59° 29' N. 4° 10' W. (B.C.1. 0830/31) Shadower gone. (F.O.C. 1st B.S. 0959/31 to Adty.)

BALTRADER. British, 1699 tons. Gunned off Rattray Head. (Wick Radio 1100/31). Bombed. (Scapa Base Ship 1430/31) Bombed off N.W. Ireland 0800/24. Gunned 5' S.W. of Rattray Head 1200/31. Details. (C.in C. Rosyth 2311/1 to Adty.)

ARCTIC TRAPPER. (Damaged by near Miss 29/10) My 1921/29. Refloated and brought into Dover. (V.A. Dover 0951/31 to Adty.)

Mining.

Sheerness. Red Mine detonated at 0345 in 080° East Ooze L.V. 1.3 miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0501/31 to Adty.)

Approaches to Rosyth. Cancel my 1301/26 and my 0819/29. (C.in C. Rosyth 1021/31).

Thames Estuary. Following explosions seen during night 30-31 October. 1935 heavy explosion in mid-air in about mid-shingles buoy. 2125 3 large explosions on surface of water bearing 050 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy. distant 2227 flash followed by heavy explosion distant on approximate bearing 330 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy. 0215 a line of about 15 flashes on surface water bearing 080 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy distant. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1025/31 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

M.T.B.22. — Mined in 1½ miles South of Middle Gunfleet Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1033/31 to Adty.)

Proposed Mining of Little Solo and La Chapelle Banks. — Your 1631/30. No objection is seen to proposals in (A) and (B) of paragraph 3 but I am strongly opposed to the laying of (C) as this would materially restrict the operations of our own submarines. I have no objection to additional mines being laid west of 07 degs. 30' W. (V.A.S. 1224/31 to Adty.)

Your 1631/30 para.3. Concur provided own submarine patrols are not interfered with. A submarine patrol off Brest is of more value than the field proposed in (C).

Surface escort and air protection will be required as the whole passage cannot be made in the dark. (C.in C. W.A.2103/31 to Adty.)

M.T.B.16. — Sunk. Crew in GOSSAMER. (ST.MELLONS 1419/31 to O.I.C. Harwich).

E.S.44. — Operation postponed 24 hours on account of weather (TEVIOT BANK 1520/31)

S.N.44. — Cancel my 1045/30 (R.A.M.L. 1627/31 to C.in C. W.A.) As Destroyers delayed by weather, presume you will delay S.N.44. Hoped to sail Destroyers tomorrow. (C.in C. W.A. 2005/31 to R.A.M.L.)

Plymouth. — Since my 1748/25 two red mines detonated by double L. 0840/31 50° 16' 30" N. 04° 10' 30" W., 0902/31 212° 5.5 cables from breakwater light. Also three spontaneous explosions 1656/30 215 degrees breakwater fort 1.5 miles, 1708/30 approximately 128 degrees 9 cables, 1427/31 100 degrees 2 cables Knap buoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1646/31 to Adty.)

Barry. / Barry Roads. — Will be open from 0800/1. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1846/31).

Harwich / Fleet Sweepers — Adty's 2347/28. Not now expected that reinforcement will be required unless further Minelaying takes place. (C.in C. Nore 1919/31 to C.in C. Rosyth) Cancel my 2347/28. (D.M.S.2140/31).

Liverpool. — LL sweeps detonated Mine in sweep at 120° Bar Light Vessel 2.15 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2050/31 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire, Bordeaux. — Latest R/C. (V.A.S. 1634/31).

Area C.1 (Lister) — WILK'S report 13 to 23/10. (V.A.S.1727/31 to STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

HELENA MARGARETA — British, 3316 tons. Engines disabled 8 miles West of Skerryvore. (H.MARGARETA 0619/31) Have ceased making water but rapidly drifting into danger and require towing. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0655/31) Am standing by ship (WESTON 0849/31 to C.in C. W.A.). In tow of WESTON at 56° 33' N. 7° 5' W. At 1715/31, proceeding to Tobermory at 3 knots. Tugs DILIGENT and HIBISCUS in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1829/31 to Tug THAMES) Tug THAMES should arrive Ship 1500/31. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1232/31 to WESTON.)

Report position. Tug THAMES unable to make contact (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1511/1 to WESTON) HELENA MARGARETA in tow of WESTON arrived Loch Bay, Skye. (TRELAWNEY 1731/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

GUNNY. — Norwegian, 2362 tons. Due Cape Town 27/10 from Rio de Janeiro. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945 B/31 to Adty.)

VERS LE DESTIN. — French Drifter. Ashore 100 yards West of Mole at Lyme Regis. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1556/31 to Adty.) Afloat and proceeding into Lyme Regis Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1819/31 to Adty.)

BECKHILL. — Tug ENGLISHMAN is pumping out compartments in Loch Dunvegan, Skye. Intends sail for Stornoway at daybreak/1 if weather favourable. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2016/31 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

F.N. and F.S.

Following from F.O. Harwich. Intend to employ "Flower" class corvettes as additional escort for F.N. and F.S. convoys commencing tomorrow Friday. (C.in C. Rosyth 2367/31).

My 1100/26. Cancel F.S.26. F.S.27 will be fast and F.S.28 slow (C.in C. Rosyth 2211/31).

F.N. 24.

Delayed 24 hours (C.in C. Nore 2008/31).

F.S.

My 1105/26. Cancel F.S.26. F.S.27 will be fast, F.S.28 slow.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2211/31).

E.N. 16.

Cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1141/31).

E.N. 17.

Will include ships detailed for E.N.16. (C.in C. Rosyth 1141/31).

E.N.17.
W.N.29.
W.N.30.

WOLSEY and LOWESTOFT are to sail at 1630 tomorrow for Methil subsequently sailing as A.A. cover for E.N. 17 at 0600/2. WOLSEY is to part company as necessary to rendezvous with W.N. 29, close escort NORTHERN SPRAY and Pentland Firth due Duncansby Head about 1000/3 and is to provide A.A. cover to Methil. LOWESTOFT is to transfer to W.N.30 on meeting and is then to provide A.A. cover for W.N. 30 to Methil. Code word, E.N. 17, MIGHT, W.N. 29 MUSTER, W.N. 30 CHITTY.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2245/31).

F.S. 23.

23 position at 0200/31. (WATCHMAN, 0130/31)

F.S. 24.

FS 24 anticipate sailing 6 from Tyne 6 from Middlesbrough. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1712/31 to LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN).

H.X. 61 B.

Arriving position 053° 48' N. 005° 08' W. at 1200/1. N.C.I.C. Holyhead pass to Trawler ARSENAL. (ABERDEEN, 2130/31).

H.X. 62.

Amended R/V and route, then to split in 56° 00' N. 08° 00' W.
(C.in C. W.A. 1741/31 to VETERAN, WITHERINGTON, CHELSEA, etc.)

O.B. 235.

My position, course and speed at 1200/31. Have been unable to locate any stragglers of O.B. 235. Am proceeding to Londonderry to fuel. (VERITY 1205/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

O.B.O. 237.

Expect to sail O.B.O 237 0400/1 H.M. Tugs LADY MADELINE, NORWICH CITY, 6 ships R/V with O.B. 237 at 1300/1.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1830/31)

/ 00. 45. .....

1/10/40 to 31/10/40 unit
on K-9 A.

ENDING OF

REEL K-8-A

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

1, Sept. 1940 to 31, Sept. 1940 cut from K-7-A.	Admiralty War Diaries
1/10/40 to 31/10/40 cut on	K-9-A.

O.N.I.

DATE: 16, April, 1946

MACH. NO. 1701

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: Skaggs & Powell